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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within tour weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Lord Rosebery's constitutional incapacity for directness has seldom shown itself so uglily as in his answer to the nonconformist deputation. It is generally prettily covered up, or so put in the background that one does not think about it until something comes to test the graceful words. But on this occasion it was positively offensively to the front. Had Lord Rosebery directly counselled the nonconformists not to pay the school-rate, and openly championed their refusal, however much his position as a responsible statesman might have been damaged as a man be would almost school-rate, and openly championed their rerusal, nowever much his position as a responsible statesman
might have been damaged, as a man he would almost
have conciliated us all in contrast to the impression
he did leave. He said he was against the refusal
to pay rates, true. That should surely have been
meant as advice to his hearers to avoid such folly.
Then what was the object of the aside: "but I am
not a nonconformist"? If it was not meant to
neutralise the natural meaning of his first disclaimer,
it could mean nothing at all. Nor have Lord Rosebery's explanations improved his position. The double
was too clumsy even to be clever. His hearers, at
any rate, had no misgivings as to his support of their
position. Only the same evening Dr. Clifford spoke
glowingly at Brentford of Lord Rosebery's interesting
and inspiring words; which the National Free Church
Council is going to print as a campaign pamphlet. We
doubt very much if they would have found his words
so very exhilarating, if they had taken them in the
sense of Lord Rosebery's House of Lords' version of
his own speech. his own speech.

The House of Lords has made impression enough on the Education Bill at least to justify its existence. On one matter at any rate it has shown more independent than the House of Commons could muster up during than the House of Commons could muster up during its months of discussion, and has not been content submissively to register the Government plan. In the teeth of the Government, who had the undivided support of the Opposition, the Peers carried an amendment relieving the managers of denominational schools of the charge for daily wear and tear of buildings. Two other important amendments have been carried with the acquiescence of the Government. been carried with the acquiescence of the Government, rather, one of them on the Government's own motion. One provides that the local authority may allow denominational teaching in a provided secondary school or

training college at the cost of the denomination, and in training college at the cost of the denomination, and in that case the Cowper-Temple clause will not apply. It was significant to find the Duke of Devonshire arguing that as Sir William Anson, in his unofficial capacity as a representative of Oxford University, moved that the Cowper-Temple clause should be applied to all provided secondary schools, it could not be thought to be inimical to the Church. A very natural mistake for the Duke to make. It ought not indeed to be possible for a member for Oxford University to take action in Parliament injurious to the Church of England. It has been reserved for Sir W. Anson to show that It has been reserved for Sir W. Anson to show that unfortunately it is possible.

Lord Lytton made a notable contribution to the debate. His speech on his amendment, empowering school managers to allow particular teaching in a school building by and at the cost of the denomination out of hours devoted to secular subjects, showed unusual insight into the school situation, as it now meets us. For ourselves we are against the optional element, but as an instalment of a real religious settlement the pro-posal should have been accepted. Even Lord Rosebery supported it; the argument, as he said, was entirely on one side. On the other all Lord Londonderry could do was to quote from a letter to a newspaper. The Minister for Education could not muster a single argument of his own. As it was, the Government escaped defeat only by 6.

The Kenyon-Slaney clause has been vitally amended. Appeal to the Bishop, to determine the character of the religious teaching given in the school, is now made explicit. This undoubtedly goes far to neutralise the power for mischief of Colonel Kenyon-Slaney's plan. Six ignorant men, of whom two may be avowedly antireligious, will not now be able to determine the quality and religious, will not now be able to determine the quality and nature of the religious teaching given in the school they are intended to manage. It is unfortunate that the appeal was not extended to administration. It will still be in the power of the managers, including, as the Bishop of Winchester pointed out, a couple of nonconformist disciples of Lord Rosebery, intent on hindering the Bill's working, to prevent the incumbent from superintending or even entering the school attached to his intending, or even entering the school attached to his church. In defence of their refusal to allow this appeal on administrative points, the Government took up a position of frank ecclesiastical partisanship. The object of the whole Kenyon-Slaney business, it is now officially admitted in the deserge the influence of one officially admitted, is to damage the influence of one section of Churchmen. We cannot congratulate the Lord Chancellor, who of all men ought to be fair and impartial, on the tone of his speech. It is significant that by far the greatest man amongst the Evangelicals, the Bishop of Durham, spoke strongly in favour of

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allowing an appeal to the Bishop on points of administration. The debate and its result has more than justified the protest against Colonel Kenyon-Slaney's meddling. It is made clearer than ever that those who are qualified to speak for the Church regard it as an insult to the clergy and the Church. Lord Robertson's admirable speech should be read by everyone who wants to understand this matter.

The second reading of the Militia and Yeomanry Bill produced some opposition to what had been accepted as a non-contentious measure. The proposal, which Mr. Brodrick explained for the first time, was to authorise a Militia Reserve by adding 50,000 men from those who had completed their long service or spent ten years in the Militia. The proposal with regard to the Yeomanry involves some change in the principle of the force. As the number had been increased by 22,000, it was suggested that a portion thereof should be reserved at an extra payment of £5 a year for service abroad if the crisis demanded it. In the end this part of the Bill was dropped on the understanding that the rest should be passed without opposition. Earlier in the debate Mr. Balfour in answer to a question of Lord Charles Beresford announced that he hoped next session to declare the decision of the Government on the subject of national defence.

The new system of naval education which Lord Selborne proposes to introduce shortly is exciting much interest. We are at the parting of the ways. Mr. Pretyman has already given out that the change is to be a very important one and the public has the satisfaction of knowing that the change will be made on the advice of those most competent to deal with the subject; but whilst waiting for the First Lord to produce his scheme, it is not amiss to turn to the annual report of Admiral Melville, U.S.N. chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering. Two of his recommendations, cited in the "Journal of the U.S.I." are as follow:—

1. That the policy lately inaugurated of detailing junior officers of the line exclusively to engineering duties be greatly extended. 2. That a post-graduate course of instruction in marine engineering and design be established at the Naval Academy for junior officers of the line. The reason he gives is that the younger officers trained in engineering duties lose interest in their work if allowed to specialise in other directions and that in consequence engineering efficiency is rapidly decreasing. These remarks of an expert with practical experience of the American system should carry the greatest weight.

The most notable point about the Shipping Subsidies Report, to which we drew attention last week, is the recommendation that Great Britain should embark on a policy of reciprocity. At present foreigners enjoy privileges in British ports, and of trade between British ports, which in some cases are greater than those enjoyed by British ships themselves. Similar privileges are not accorded to British ships on any foreign coast. The Shipping Subsidies Committee, over which Mr. Evelyn Cecil presided, suggests that the disabilities imposed by any foreign country should be imposed on the shipping of that country at present engaged in the British coastal trade or seeking the hospitality of British ports. In the Australasian colonies foreign vessels have recently been debarred from the coastal trade, and when we remember how little consideration is shown to the Briton in foreign ports, it seems high time something were done also by this country. The day has gone by when the competition of foreign shipping was a matter of indifference. The day is not far distant perhaps when reciprocity, in this and in other directions, will be the guiding principle of British policy.

President Castro has refused point blank to make good the losses inflicted on German and British subjects, to acknowledge the gross interference with their liberty and property during the internal squabbles, or to recognise the obligation to pay guaranteed interest on certain loans. On Monday Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons and Count von Bülow in the Reichstag announced that an ultimatum had

been sent. On Tuesday the ambassadors of the two countries adopted the straightforward but not very formal method of leaving letters at the private house of Castro and retiring afterwards to the German and English vessels which had come up to the neighbour-hood of Caracas. Soon afterwards "the combined fleets captured the Venezuelan navy"—a feat recalling, at least in greatness of phrase, another battle of La Belle Alliance. President Castro countered by seizing all British and German subjects. Most of these he has since released, and others have been "saved". The evidence as to the fate of the ships is a little confused; but two certainly have been sunk by the Germans—we wonder why—and the fate of the rest is unknown. On land President Castro seems to be making all preparations for resistance. He has called up troops and prepared defences.

It is a significant commentary upon Foreign Office business methods, at least in regard to South America, that though some of the causes of quarrel are of long standing, there are no official papers ready for publication. If, simultaneously with the announcement that an ultimatum had been despatched, the German Foreign Office can issue an authoritative and lucid memorandum upon German grievances, surely Lord Lansdowne's department should have been stimulated to a like achievement. We shall be told that, in view of past experience, such an expectation is extravagant. In our frontier dispute with Venezuela in 1895 there were no papers ready: and when, after a long delay, they were brought out they contained errors which prejudiced the British case. With a department thus conducted it is not surprising that we should have to depend chiefly upon newspaper gossip—largely from New York and Berlin—for accounts of what our grievances against Venezuela are and for what is now going on in the Caribbean Sea.

The forthcoming coronation ceremonies at Delhi form the one absorbing subject of interest in India to the exclusion of frontier expeditions, Viceroy's tours, commissions of inquiry, regimental troubles, Russian intrigues and everything else that usually occupies the public at this season. Even Lord Kitchener's arrival is presented as an addition to the éclat of the great pageant. The attendance will be worthy of the occasion for not'only will the chiefs and rulers of all India, native and European, be gathered there but the outer world will be worthily represented—the Colonies, Japan our latest ally, the Boer our late antagonist, and a host of representatives and sightseers from all the four winds. A band of Mutiny veterans will occupy one camp and the press of the two hemispheres another. An art exhibition and an economic museum will gather together the treasures and products of the past and the present. The festivities sports and ceremonials which supplement the central function of the assemblage will occupy every available hour of the crowded days and nights which await the visitors to this amazing spectacle. A rich harvest is being reaped by all who minister to their wants—from the P. and O. to the tent-pitcher.

In Germany, the opposition of the Social Democrats and Radicals to the passing of the Tariff Bill has collapsed. They have been fighting the Bill on motions raised on various reports of the Tariff Bill Committee and have been enabled to obstruct by making speeches which could not be suppressed under the forms of the House until the new Procedure Rules were passed. Having secured this, the majority have now obtained a ruling from the President that such speeches as the Opposition have been making come under the definition of points of order and consequently are limited to five minutes. The majority had therefore a clear field for their intention of passing the Tariff en bloc at the second reading of the Bill, and this was effected on Thursday. The Tariff being so passed en bloc the Bill will pass its third reading by a system of closure in compartments. The adoption of the Tariff en bloc does not prevent certain alterations in the Tariff as fixed by the Committee; but there would still remain many duties which the Gevernment has refused to accept. If the majority are not

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restrained by this consideration, the point of interest will be the attitude of the Government when the Bill has passed the Reichstag, and this seems likely to be in favour of the Clericals and Agrarians.

An interpellation on the Humbert case was made the excuse for something like a free fight in the French Chamber. The accusation against the Government is the old one: that Madame Humbert was allowed to slip away from Paris because so many people of position were concerned in the scandal. After a hundred or so deputies had crowded in front of the tribune, shouting and stamping, and the President had three times put on his hat, and the soldiers had been called in and M. Syveton had expressed the alarming desire of himself and his constituents "to spit upon Parliamentarism", a vote of confidence in the Government was passed by a large majority. M. Vallé, the Minister of Justice, who was chiefly attacked made an elaborate display of the efforts he had made to catch the Humberts, of the circulars and the photographs and the telegrams he had sent out. They were of course all beside the point, as the fault, if fault there was, lay solely in the delay in bringing this ponderous mechanism to work. The duel between M. Vallé and M. Syveton is postponed owing to difficulties in the etiquette. It is not yet decided whether the weapons will be swords or "boot-jacks at half a mile".

The formation of the new Ministry in Spain by Señor Silvela is chiefly remarkable because it marks the final disappearance of Señor Sagasta. He is seventy-five years old and his final withdrawal is taken, with whatever justification, as a sort of farewell to a revolutionary epoch. The passing of a vote of censure on his Minister of Marine was the final occasion of his withdrawal. The appointment of Señor Toca to his portfolio, who is known to be in favour of a progressive naval policy, and of Señor Maura, the new Home Secretary, who has strongly supported the same policy, is some sign that the lesson of the Cuban War is not forgotten. General Linares, the new Minister of War, will possibly help to emphasise the same point as he was one of those wounded in the attack on Santiago de Cuba. Perhaps the most important member in the present state of the country is the Finance Minister, and Señor Villaverde inspired an unusual amount of confidence when he filled the same post before. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is Señor Abarzuza who is chiefly commended as an excellent linguist. He has higher claims however. His long personal acquaintance with Parisians suggests that like Señor Silvela he will be enthusiastic for a close understanding with France.

The first thing Lord Kitchener said when he reached London on his return from South Africa was: "How is the Dam getting on?" The Duke of Connaught answered the question in full when he inaugurated the new irrigation works in Egypt on Wednesday. The King has marked the importance of the work by giving honours to those mainly responsible. Sir Benjamin Baker, who becomes a K.C.B., and Sir William Edmund Garstin, are the two men from this list of honours whose names will be most intimately connected with the work. When Egypt was taken over the irrigation works, even the great dam at Rosetta, were in a miserable state of ill-repair and collapse and at last after years of fine engineering work, mostly done by our Anglo-Indian engineers, the repair or abolition of the old systems was finished and it became possible to build this great Assouan reservoir, which with similar works that are already begun higher up will ultimately make the fertility of the Nile Valley almost independent of the caprice of the river.

A lesser, but still great, water problem was advanced a stage on Wednesday, when the London Water Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons by 104 to 28. On certain very important points Mr. Long has met the views of those who have opposed the Government Bill; but there remained the question of the constitution of the Water Board, and in this case Mr. Long could go no further than a modification of detail which did not satisfy the Opposition, but in which they were perforce compelled to acquiesce with continued

protests all through the debate. In its final form the Board will now consist of 66 members instead of 73, four additional representatives being assigned to the London County Council; the proportion to the whole body being now one fifth instead of one-seventh. An addition to the Bill, which gave occasion to the expression of much satisfaction, was one relating to arbitration. It provides that any agreement between the Water Board and a water company for the transfer of the undertaking shall be valid only if, and so far as, it is confirmed by the Court of Arbitration constituted by the Act and the Court may confirm the agreement either with or without modification.

The indiscretion of Sir Horace Rumbold has been brought directly to the notice of the House of Lords by a request from Lord Newton that the Secretary of State should make a public statement absolving Sir Horace Rumbold from having "betrayed a trust". But the charge had not been made. When Sir Horace Rumbold retired from his official position in the Austrian capital he published a book of reminiscences which were interesting and free from indiscretion. The later magazine article was less discreet. It contained one piece of knowledge which, as Lord Lansdowne said, could not have been used even by Government without the leave of the Austrian Emperor. Unhappily the article, which contained opinions hostile to Germany, appeared while the German Emperor was in England. Lest other diplomatists, out of too great goodwill to the country where they have served, should be in danger of similar indiscretion Lord Lansdowne intends to promulgate a new regulation impressing the duty of official reticence. His view is that Sir Horace Rumbold did not understand the obligation to preserve official secrets. Apropos of Sir Horace Rumbold, in our review of his "Recollections" we said "it is certain that young Rumbold left London at an early age as valet, or secretary, or both, to the Governor of Fort St. George". We have since had evidence put before us which inclines us to the conclusion that this statement is inaccurate. We regret that it should have been made.

The Westminster Play, as the Commemoration at Oxford, has been long suspended. Owing to Royal calamities and national war there has been none acted since 1899. In the interval the school had had a new headmaster and Westminster a new dean; and these many changes produced a little nervousness that some break in the tradition might be left manifest. We could detect none. The "claque" followed the waved wands with the same decent obedience; the acting was distinguished by the same admirable clearness of enunciation, the prologue was as classical and the epilogue as topical as ever; and the suggestion of the Rhodes scholar that Euclid was the author of Bridge certainly out-Ciceroed Cicero. Tradition is not easily lost at a public school, and there have certainly been too many "Phormios" acted at Westminster to allow forgetfulness of any of its dramatic precedents.

No such revolutionary suggestion in cricket has been accepted for years as that passed by the captains of the first-class counties at the beginning of the week. They advise widening the wickets by one inch. On a priori principles it has always seemed to us that on the modern pitches where balls do not shoot and can with difficulty be made to turn, the bat is too wide in proportion to the wicket. The extra inch across the wickets would certainly help the bowler, though unfortunately it would help him as much when the pitch was bad as when it was good. For this reason among others the narrowing of the bat has seemed to us preferable to greater width of the stumps. It is easier to hit, to play a forcing game with the narrower bat, and it is on the bad wickets that the hitting game in a great majority of cases is the wiser policy. The proposal that in future three test matches should be played instead of five, and each played to a finish, will be approved by all except those who are more interested in the gate money than the cricket.

There was stuff of the true romance in the account Dr. Sven Hedin gave to the Geographical Society of his journey in Asia. His journey through the countries

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north and east of Afghanistan and Kashmir took him three years during which he travelled more than a thousand miles down the Tarim, crossed the Gobi Desert and the great ranges of mountains across it, and passed through a part of Tibet itself. The journey was full of incidents and discoveries that appeal to the imagination, but the most striking impression left by the account is of the vast antiquity of the civilisation in these regions. He found proof of a great trade route connecting Western China with Turkestan. A half-buried city, such is one's impression, is a common thing to find as you walk the desert; and Dr. Sven Hedin found in some of them coins and manuscripts which indicate that in ages of unknown antiquity means of livelihood existed that have long disappeared in the desert. In a spot where rain never falls, which no river approaches, was once a city from which "forty officials" went out "to meet an army at the frontier". That part of the world at any rate was of considerable age in 4004 B.C.

It is to be hoped that when Mr. Chamberlain lands in South Africa he will be instantly handed a full account of Mr. Bowles' speech at King's Lynn. It will take a great weight off Mr. Chamberlain's mind. "He referred", says the "Times" report of Mr. Bowles' speech, "with pleasure to the close of the war and with approbation to Mr. Chamberlain's visit to South Africa". Further, "Mr. Chamberlain would make the settlement and he was sure it would be a satisfactory one". Lord Milner on the other hand will be unnerved by the horrid banning of him by Mr. Bowles. Somehow whenever Mr. Bowles is in this vein one is irresistibly reminded of Simon among the apprentices; of "Lead on, Noble Captain"; and of "Something will come of this—I hope it won't be human gore".

Except for the weakness of American Railroad stocks markets generally have displayed a firm tone, South Africans being particularly buoyant. A fair amount of business passed in Consols and the tendency of this security is good, owing in a large measure to the fact that the Bank rate was allowed to remain at 4 per cent. It is hoped that no advance in the official rate will be found necessary this year. Tenders for £500,000 London County bills were received at the Bank of England, and the total amount applied for was £2,007,000. Tenders were accepted as follows:—For bills at six months at £98 2s. 6d. about 87 per cent.; above in full. Average rate per cent. for six months bills £3 14s. 8d. Changes in the Home Railway section were unimportant, and business was confined within narrow limits. South-Eastern deferred was sold in anticipation of an issue of further stock by the directors. Heavy liquidation took place in American Rails and a serious break occurred in consequence. There was a tendency in some quarters to attribute the fall to the Venezuelan crisis, but there can be no doubt that the real reason for the acute weakness is the monetary condition on the other side.

The account in Kaffirs was arranged without difficulty and proved to be of about the same dimensions as last time. The market spurted on the news that native labour will be supplied from Central Africa, and although the reply to a question on this subject in the House of Commons was in cautious terms, advices from South Africa point to the fact that the matter to all intents and purposes is settled. There was some support from the Continent, but general business in this section is still restricted. The total gold output for November of all the mines in the Transvaal now crushing amounted to 182,749 ounces of fine gold for the Witwatersrand district, and 4,626 ounces of fine gold for the outside districts, in all 187,375 ounces. The production in October was 179,660 ounces for the Witwatersrand district and 1,779 ounces for the outside districts, in all 181,439 ounces. Business in West Africans was at a standstill and changes were of a purely nominal character. Westralians were steady, the market being helped by the good Boulder Perseverance output for November amounting to 16,860 ounces, and a satisfactory cable issued by the Lake View Consols regarding developments at depth. Consols 92½. Bank rate 4 per cent. (2 October).

THE VENEZUELAN AFFAIR.

WHOEVER has lived in Venezuela and had acquaintance with its polite and vivacious people must regret that England and Germany have found it necessary to resort to force. That in each case the ultimatum should have been acted upon is not, as the more ignorant section of the press seems to think, a matter for vainglorious joy. Venezuela is a small republic in all respects but those of geographical area and natural richness and she has an unfortunate history. A heritage of three centuries of misgovernment and internal trouble furnishes, however, no reason why her people should have been insulted, as they have been during the past week, in terms which even the least responsible of journalists would not dare to employ in the case of differences with a Great Power. Not only is it bad form to heap contumely upon a weak and sensitive foe but in this instance it is also very bad policy. The gibes directed by ill-informed and reckless newspapers will do something besides embittering her inhabitants against us. They will further alienate the mind of the whole of the South American peoples, who keenly and quite rightly resent the contemptuous insolence with which the average Englishman treats their affairs. It is a commonplace with the amateur critic that it would be well if "these wretched little South and Central Republics could be swept off the face of the earth". Most of the newspaper comments upon the Venezuelan imbroglio seem to have been founded upon this erroneous and brutal supposition. We have no love for Republicanism as a form of government but it would show lack of wisdom as well as of humanity if this slipshod of wisdom as well as of humanity if this slipshod generalisation were accepted. So far from Europe deriving advantage from the destruction of any one or all of the States, it is to her best interests to help them to overcome their weaknesses and assiduously to cultivate good relations with them. But decent sympathy for Venezuela and reprehension of insults, which are doubtless attributable not to making but to lack of knowledge and of competence to malice but to lack of knowledge and of competence to handle public affairs, do not imply criticism of Lord Lansdowne's action. Even on the meagre state-Lord Lansdowne's action. Even on the meagre statements of Mr. Balfour and Lord Cranborne it was clearly necessary to strike at President Castro and his Executive. Superficially regarded the situation is harmless enough for everybody except Venezuela. President Castro, himself the child of revolution, whose power, such as it is, rests upon force, may play the verbal braggart with all the intellectual subtlety and emotional extravagance which makes the South American so attractive and yet so difficult to get on with; but he knows words do not raise blockades. At the moment the facts belie any supposition that complications will ensue. Venezuela is powerless to make mischief between those who would coerce her. President Castro has tried and failed to secure the protection of the United States. Excluding from consideration merely flamboyant talk about the Monroe rule, the attitude of the States is quite correct. Mr. Roosevelt admitted in his Presidential Message that he could do nothing to protect South American States when they were in the wrong. They would have to suffer the consequences of their own offences against the comity of nations, subject to the limitation that the United States would not allow those consequences to take the form of loss of their territory to any European Power. The Monroe rule will not therefore be brought into operation on behalf of Venezuela.

This is not the act of gracious condescension on the part of the States which it has been represented to be. The real reason for not applying the doctrine is not that Venezuela has misbehaved, is recalcitrant and therefore ought to be chastised, but that the United States is powerless to avert her punishment in any case. The statement that the United States will only interfere in disputes of this nature to prevent loss of territory to a European Power is an idle boast and must remain so as long as the United States does not possess a navy equal to the combined navies of the Great Powers of Europe. Let it be supposed, for example, that either Germany or England had territorial ambitions in South America and

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determined to use the present disputes as producing an opportunity to gratify them. Could the United States prevent either Power from taking as much of Venezuelan territory as it pleased? The United States navy gives a negative answer. How much less could the prevent both Power from the state of the could be the prevent both Power from the state of the could be the prevent of th gives a negative answer. How much less could she prevent both Powers from acting in concert and dividing Venezuela between them? We may carry the argument further. Not only Germany and England but other European Powers also have, or recently had, grievances against Venezuela like our own. Could the United States prevent a concert of Europe, acting through the navies of the Old World, from enrealing Venezuela or for that matter all the South arcelling Venezuela, or for that matter, all the South American republics among its members? To put the case in this form is to demonstrate the uselessness of the Monroe rule as an operative force either in the present case or in easily conceivable contingencies. The reservation made by Mr. Roosevelt means that war would be declared upon any Power or

means that war would be declared upon any Power or Powers which obtained compensation by the seizure or cession of territory; but it is valueless because war could not be successfully waged in the present condition of the United States navy. Thus his cry of "hands off" to the Powers does not affect the situation.

The Venezuelan trouble is strictly limited, as an international problem, to the difficulty of exacting reparation for wrongs committed against subjects of the Powers. Relatively speaking it is a small matter and capable of quick adjustment if President Castro acts with a modicum of sense, or—should his conduct be as provocative of disaster to his country as his words suggest they may be—if other prominent Venezuelans can relegate him to private life and will themselves act intelligently and reasonably. Reduced to its narrowest compass the question is a financial one—what is the amount of the indemnity to be paid and what are the best arrangements to be made, be paid and what are the best arrangements to be made, in the common interest, for its payment? On the one hand Venezuela cannot escape from the obligation to pay, for, if necessary, European forces can occupy Caracas and remain in the country until a settlement is effected. On the other hand all the Powers of Europe cannot get out of Venezuela more than she can produce by way of compensation for wrongs, nor can they get it earlier than Venezuela's means of payment permit. The people have been almost ruined by a revolution which has now lasted for nearly three years. We admit everything that can be said in condemnation of these disorders. Politics in Venezuela is a profession these disorders. Politics in Venezuela is a profession—the easiest road for the capable and unscrupulous to riches as well as power. The Presidency offers the greatest facilities and temptations for personal enrichment at the expense of the State; and Castro, if what his laterates can be true is no better than his predecessors. detractors say be true, is no better than his predecessors. But commonplaces of writing upon South American topics can be taken as read. The difficulty is one that has to be dealt with in a business spirit. A distinction must be drawn between the Venezuelan nation and the individuals, who have proved themselves incompetent. dividuals who have proved themselves incompetent rulers and administrators. The nation, it is true, will have to pay and thus suffer for the follies of its govern-ing men. In that respect no differentiation is possible. The Creole coffee-grower and cattle-raiser of the interior The Creole coffee-grower and cattle-raiser of the interior will have to smart, in a pecuniary sense, for the errors of the military and political class in Caracas. But there is no occasion for harshness and oppression towards the nation. Consideration and patience should guide our policy, even though it has been necessary to use force. We are dealing, not with barbarians who can understand little else than the meaning of a blow, but with a proud and sensitive people amenable to reason. with a proud and sensitive people amenable to reason, even if they have a quaint exaggerated sense of their own importance in the world.

JACOBIN JUSTICE IN PARIS.

WE have always suspected the sincerity of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, who is now disporting himself in lands pleasanter even than France, but we doubt if he entirely approves of the manner in which his successor is carrying out his policy. The ex-Premier again and again asserted during the passage of the Asso-

ciations Bill that it would be administered in the broadest possible spirit, and that no religious communities would be interfered with unless they were clearly a danger to the State. But M. Waldeck-Rousseau must have been well aware that he was letting loose dangerous forces which his successors would be able to control even less than himself. It was also a favourite point of M. Rousseau and his supporters that the Bill was in reality only aimed at certain teaching Orders, whose system of instruction was in the nature of a conspiracy against Republican institutions. We pointed out from the first that when a Jacobin majority had once been armed with the degree was accordingly by the armed with the dangerous weapons provided by the late Ministry, it would not allow extravagances to be checked by references to the declarations of some former ministry. We feel no satisfaction that our predictions are being fulfilled to the letter. If we were capable of experiencing any feeling of Schadenfreude in a matter which involves the destinies of France and her Church we might indeed plume ourselves over the changed attitude of the "Times", whose powerful influence supported the Bill, but which is now indignant at the use to which thoughtful observers well knew that Bill would be put. In fact it is becoming quite clear that Jacobinism, having been given an entirely free hand, intends to crush if possible its most dangerous enemies, the religious Orders. In order to effect this M. Combes is violating not only every distinct pledge given by M. Waldeck-Rousseau but also the spirit of the Republican Constitution. lican Constitution.

The applications formulated by the Orders for authorisation are referred by the Government for consideration to a Committee of the Chamber. Such a committee would be nominated in most Assemblies by a fair scheme of individual selection: the majority in the French Chamber has determined that it shall be the French Chamber has determined that it shall be selected by Scrutin de Liste. This method of course leaves the supporters of the Government free to pack the committee. As a matter of fact they were considerate enough to leave the Opposition eight members out of thirty-three. These gentlemen have naturally refused to play a part in a dismal farce and have left the whole semittee to the Padicale and Socialists. the whole committee to the Radicals and Socialists. The committee thus constituted will not quarrel with the decision of the Ministry to refuse all authorisations save five out of the sixty-two applications; indeed the Ministry has only referred to them the fifty-six applications it has already refused, leaving the rest to be disposed of by the Senate, treating that body much as our own Ministry has treated the House of Lords. But no more justice is to be anticipated from the Senate than from the Chamber. A great deal, it is true, has been said there about freedom of instruction, among others by M. Clémenceau, but that gentleman and his fellows all prefaced their generalities by a special plea for the abolition of the teaching Orders before their

theory of freedom comes into force.

The fate of these Orders has been indeed sealed beforehand. The expected has happened, but even M. Combes went rather too far when he suppressed, proprio motu, establishments belonging to private individuals who employed members of religious Orders individuals who employed members of religious Orders as teachers, and even secular sentiment deprecated the maladroit policy which led to the riots in Brittany and elsewhere, but the determination of the enemies of all free instruction remains the same. M. Combes' theory and that of the new Jacobinism is that education is a matter entirely for the State. The manufacture of good Republicans is as much its monopoly as the manufacture of spirituous liquors or matches or cigars is a monopoly of the State in some countries. This is a pretty doctrine in a land where liberty is supposed to be the first law of being. Private teaching on this theory exists on sufferance alone, and it will not be left in the hands of political opponents or those suspected theory exists on sufferance alone, and it will not be left in the hands of political opponents or those suspected of so being. M. Combes puts forward the ridiculous excuse that these Orders are not "capable of giving instruction conforming to the needs of modern society". Such a statement with regard to the Jesuits and Benedictines is too self-contradictory to be worthy of the name of sophistry.

But the "Times" correspondent rightly denounces as "sophistry" the detailed defence put forward by the Ministry for its treatment of the Orders other than

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engaged in teaching. It was intimated by Waldeck-Rousseau that practically in all cases authorisation would follow application, and that only teaching Orders would be refused. Both promises have been flagrantly violated. M. Combes is now defending his Cabinet for denying authorisation to twenty-five Orders whose sole or principal function is that of preaching, among them the Passionist Fathers who only minister to English-speaking people. There is indeed in this case very strong ground for calling upon our own Foreign Office to remonstrate and at all events demand compensation. Of the and at all events demand compensation. Of the frivolous pretexts on which the suppression of the preaching Orders is based, the most audacious is the plea for the secular clergy in France. We are in fact asked to believe that the clergy prefer to preach to small congregations rather than see their pulpits filled by eloquent men who give their services for nothing and fill their offertories. In fact the French Church is to be described of the convices of her most Church is to be deprived of the services of her most eloquent sons for no reason at all save that the Jacobins dislike them as they dislike all free exercise of the intel-We may remember that it was said during the Revolution that the Republic had no need of savants or The case of the Carthusians is one of the strongest instances of the system in which the law is being administered by M. Combes. They had voluntarily transferred their establishments abroad, but, overcome by the insistence of their lay friends, they had sought authorisation for the Grande Chartreuse the original seat of their Order. This institution is the earthly providence of the neighbourhood; 97,000 persons had signed a petition for its authorisation. Yet the Government denied it because the monks had only applied for it in the case of "an industrial establishment". This is a delicate reference to the manufacture of the famous liqueur. The policy of the Cabinet is therefore clear. If an Order does not explicit is the is therefore clear. If an Order does not apply, it is of course not authorised; if it applies it is refused either because it does something which is not wanted, or because it does something which is wanted too much. The dilemma is not ingenuous but it is effective. It is on a par with an equally childish but equally mean process of argument familiar in practice to big boys when dealing with little ones: "Those that ask shan't have and those that don't ask don't want".

We may feel grateful that we are no longer asked by any reputable English journal to regard these methods of procedure as statesmanship. Although they appear to carry the approval of the Chamber and perhaps the Senate, we do not believe they will prove good tactics. The strength of the Church in France is still very great. It is the only institution existing in that country, with the exception of the army, which has strong vitality of its own. The aim of the Government is to separate two forces which have worked together for the glory of France and still constitute the most stable foundation of patriotism. That the present policy can have lasting success is incredible to anyone who has had the opportunity of studying France of to-day and the tendency of the component parts of her society. If events prove that the Jacobin tyranny is to be finally victorious, it will mean the substitution of a degrading materialism for the ideals which, if often mistaken, were still disinterested, and the ultimate disappearance of France

from the company of great nations.

THE YEOMANRY ILLUSION.

THE opposition which was unexpectedly developed against the one-clause Militia and Yeomanry Bill reveals a growth of interest in the military forces reveals a growth of interest in the military forces of the Empire the more welcome that it took many by surprise. The Army and even the Navy Estimates are too often received by empty benches. The House usually shows itself intensely bored when any questions of defence—unless personal reputations are involved—come up for discussion, and at the tag end of an autumn session anything put forward by a War Minister might have slipped through. But the House, while it might have swallowed the 50,000 Militia Reserve at 4d. a day at one indiscrimina-

ting gulp, strained at the 35,000 Yeomanry-the image of cavalry with less than 25 per cent. of the expense which formed part of the dish presented to it. In truth which formed part of the dish presented to it. In truth there is a wide difference in principle between the measures dealing with the mounted and dismounted auxiliary forces, and the House showed a true instinct by its attitude. True it is that some provisions dealing with the Militia are obscure except to provide and that when their full meaning her bear experts, and that when their full meaning has been unravelled it will not commend itself to many minds. If a man is liable to be transferred from one corps to another, it will very likely happen that discontent will supervene, and that recruiting will suffer. Uncertainty is what everyone dislikes, and the Militiaman with a wife and family is not likely to enjoy it more than other people. Also the territorial system is thrown overboard under the new regulations, and county feeling, and territorial esprit de corps are factors in the situation that must be reckoned with. The late war has given a marked and healthy stimulus to such feelings, and they should be fostered not discouraged. But, in our present straits for men, much that was once held sacred has had to be abandoned, and the Militia Reserve, if not an ideal organisa-tion, will serve in days when we have to be contented with soldiers not much more than five feet

high, and broad in proportion.

With the Yeomanry it is however very different.

What are the 35,000 Yeomen required for? Thirty thousand of them are we understand to be utilised for home defence, while a selected 5,000 are to be available for service beyond the seas. But home defence does not begin until our fleets have been destroyed, and we have lost the command of the sea. Therefore it is only when hostile squadrons are dominating the seas round us that the 30,000 Yeomanry can get their opportunity. There are those who concan get their opportunity. There are those who con-tend that when we have lost command of the sea our star will have set for ever, and that therefore no organisation which attempts to remedy that supreme disaster is worth consideration. But it may be argued that although we have not irretrievably lost command of the sea, we may yet have to meet an invader on English soil. We do not propose to enter into a discussion of this view of the question here; we simply state what some authorities believe, and assume, as a premise for the pur-poses of our argument. If one set of opinions be correct 30,000 Yeomen can never be of use at all; if the other views be accepted, the question arises as to whether they will be the best troops for employment. If we had to fight on the soil of England would a large force of yeomanry, call them either mounted infantry or cavalry, be more useful than infantry? England a country where mounted troops manœuvre? Is it not rather a highly enclosed, close country where movement would be confined almost entirely to the roads, and where therefore a cyclist can penetrate wherever a horseman can ride? If infantry, more especially cyclist infantry, are better It is to be considered that at the moment when we are lining up in Kent and Sussex to defend London, bread will be at prohibitive prices. Will it be wise at such a moment to take corn to feed the horses of the Yeomen when a starving poputhe horses of the Yeomen when a starving population is crying out for it to feed themselves? But it is argued that these 35,000 Yeomen are needed to provide mounted troops for foreign service, and the corps d'élite which they are to furnish will be obtained at one-tenth the price that would have to be paid for regular cavalry. This argument savours of the procedure of Elia's Chinaman who obtained troops took burning down Chinaman who obtained roast pork by burning down his house. If 5,000 cavalry must be added to the army, let it be done. It is better, if you need an article, to pay a fair price and get what you require. It is more businesslike and less expensive in the long run to do so than to raise a huge unnecessary force, and then by emasculating it obtain an unsatisfactory and inefficient substitute for what is needed. Corps d'élite are destructive of general efficiency, and are a costly luxury. They raise the level of a few units at the cost of missing the general quality of the remainder, and they have been abandoned

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in all services where economy is studied, and where the personal dignity of a ruler is not concerned. There is this additional objection then against the new corps d'élite, and it is one which no one who has the real efficiency of our auxiliary forces at heart will be prepared to overlook. The truth, we suspect, is that the difficulty of finding recruits lies at the root of the establishment of a large force of Yeomanry. There is a certain glamour about a sabre and a pair of spurs. It is better fun to ride than to walk on a hot summer's day at mangeuvres. And the fact that many so-called Yeomen went to the war has given a temporary prestige to the force. But it should be remembered that a force suitable for work on the open and boundless veldt is not necessarily well adapted for operations in a country such as ours, and it should not be left out of sight that in South Africa we had to meet a foe mounted to a man. It may possibly be open to doubt whether we may or may not ever have to fight on British soil, but it is beyond a shadow of doubt that when we do fight we shall not meet a force with a large proportion of mounted men. The exigencies of sea transport will prevent that; and the composition of the army of invasion will be remorselessly circumscribed by the space available on the limited number of transports that the enemy will have at his disposal.

These are some of the objections against the organisation of large forces of mounted men for home defence, above and beyond the more radical objection that such defence should rest on our ships and fleets. We however regard all such efforts with a distrust founded on a deeper objection still. These efforts spring from the essential and cardinal difficulty which hampers us in our schemes of defence, and which always must hamper us until the stern fact that universal service is at the door has been accepted. We cannot obtain sufficient men to carry out our programme. That is the real crux of the situation.

EGYPT AND THE GREAT DAM.

THE Nile reservoir at Assuan was opened on Wednesday with as little display as a town hall or a charity bazaar. We like it so. A bar of masonry is thrown across the Nile and the Nubian Valley is turned into a lake. That this should seem an incident in the business of empire is as it should be. A great achievement, thus coolly viewed, brings us near to the spirit of Rome, apparently lost in the saturnalia of Mafeking and Peace days.

"Tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento; Hae tibi erunt artes: pacisque imponere morem, Parcere subiectis, et debellare superbos."

The event, as an event, is worthy to be understood. On the map Egypt is shown as a great parallelogram. But this area is rainless except in the north, and it is the narrow riband of green fields stretching on either side of the Nile from Assuan to Cairo, that together with the Delta and the Fayum constitutes the real Egypt. The land draws its supplies of moisture not from its own sky, but from the skies of Abyssinia and Central Africa; and being just so much of the desert as can be fertilised by the waters of its river, Egypt is in literal truth the "gift of the Nile". To the people of such a country water is the paramount necessity of life; and of all the reforms effected by British administration the restoration and extension of the irrigation works is the most vital and the most valued. Nineteen years ago, when British engineers were summoned from India to reform the Egyptian Irrigation Service, the situation was one which might have baffled even resolute and skilful men. Incompetence, waste, neglect and disuse, had brought the then existing system of irrigation works and canals to a condition of disorder that threatened the industrial life of the nation with paralysis. The English irrigation officers began in a modest way to clear and repair the canals. On the strength of their early success they obtained from the Government the "irrigation million"; and

then a task of real magnitude was completed. Just south of Cairo, at the apex of the Delta, the Barrage had stood for twenty-five years—a costly failure. Its purpose was to hold up the Nile, and so provide a supply of water sufficient for the perennial irrigation of the cotton crops, then as now the main source of the national wealth. Built from the designs of Mougel Bey, the French engineer, the Barrage had cost £1,800,000, besides "the unpaid labour of uncounted corvées, and of whole battalions of soldiers". But the bad workmanship of the natives had made the structure so weak that it had never held up more than five feet nine inches of water, and in 1885, when the English engineers took it in hand, it had been abandoned as worthless. Nevertheless by 1890, after four years of skilful reconstruction and repairs, the Barrage was rendered efficient: the perennial irrigation of Lower Egypt was achieved, the cotton industry was saved, and the future prosperity of Egypt was assured. As yet, however, the sugar industry and the peasant proprietors of Upper Egypt, from Cairo for more than 500 miles southward to Assuan, remained dependent upon the annual overflow of the Nile for the supply of the irrigation canals with water. The canals and conduits were gradually deepened and improved, the land was drained; but before a supply of water sufficient for perennial irrigation could be obtained, the millions of tons of surplus water, which every year the Nile poured wastefully in the season of its flood into the Mediterranean, must be caught and stored.

It is this service which the great dam at Assuan will perform. Holding up a volume of surplus water of more than a thousand million tons in weight, it will pour forth in the season of low Nile a flow of water twice as great as the volume of the Thames in its mean annual flood. The Assuan reservoir, with the ancillary "open Barrage" at Assiut (that fills the Ibrahimiyeh Canal), will not only provide some 800,000 acres of land in Upper Egypt—one third of the agricultural area—with perennial irrigation, but it will enable fresh land to be reclaimed from the desert, and so enlarge the area of habitable Egypt. The price which Egypt pays for this boon is something under five millions, distributed in thirty annual payments of £157,226, running from 1 July, 1903. The cash value of the new water supply is estimated at an annual increase of £E.2,608,000 in the national wealth, and of £E.378,400 in the annual revenue; while the State will gain in addition a bonus of over a million pounds from the sale of lands reclaimed from the desert. It remains to be seen, of course, whether these estimates of the increased productiveness of the Nile Valley will be realised. On the other hand, they may be exceeded. In any case the prospect of an immediate increase in the purchasing power of Egypt is a matter which is worth the notice of our manufacturers.

But the formal inauguration of the Nile reservoir is significant from more than one aspect. We have regarded it as the crowning point in a material enterprise of the highest economic importance, undertaken nearly twenty years ago in circumstances of great difficulty, and now successfully accomplished, by Englishmen. But it has its political significances as well: it is a vindication of the purposes for which we have remained in Egypt in the face of the ill-concealed annoyance of more than one Great Power. It is an augury of success in South Africa, in so far as part of our task in that province of the Empire is identical with the task which we have thus successfully accomplished in Egypt.

THE FASHION OF ARTHUR.

IT has been attempted in the celebrated case of the hour to draw an inference from the fact that persons, not related, called one another by their Christian names or some nickname. Whether the inference will be accepted or rejected by the jury we cannot say. But the mere discussion of the point—from which alas! there is no escape at present—suggests that the fashion of men and women calling one another by baptismal and pet names, if they meet at all often, has grown very rapidly and spread very

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widely during the last few years. And it is decidedly a matter of fashion, though the fashion is not merely capricious, but may be traceable, in some measure at least, to the Court. At the beginning of the eighteenth century manners were ceremonious, and Anne's Court was stiff and dull. Towards the middle of the century manners relaxed, and by the end of the century, when the Prince Regent ruled the roast, they had become very easy. In the set of which Fox, Lord Carlisle, very easy. In the set of which Fox, Lord Carlisle, and Selwyn were leaders, everybody was Charles or George. This sort of thing continued through the reign of George IV., but with the passing of the Reform Bill and the accession of Queen Victoria we had a reversion to primness. on the throne always makes for stiffness, and the invasion of society by the middle-class after 1832 induced discrimination on the part of the elect. Perhaps the beginning of relaxation in modern political circles was the translation of the Fourth Party to the Treasury bench. Then it was nothing but "Randolph" and "George" and "Arthur". There is a story, it may be invented but if so, it is well invented about a and "George" and "Arthur". There is a story, it may be invented, but if so, it is well invented, about a colleague of Mr. Balfour who, after delivering a carefully prepared speech on the complicated question of rating, sat down mopping his Olympian brow, and asking "How did I do, Arthur?" "Splendidly, Harry, splendidly." "Did you understand it, Arthur?" "Not a word, Harry, not a word." During the last few years we have had a rapid and alarming development in the direction of casual and endearing address. Mr. Balfour is perhaps the first Prime Minister who has been Balfour is perhaps the first Prime Minister who has been Balfour is perhaps the first Prime Minister who has been "Arthured", not only by his contemporaries, but by his under-secretaries. To realise the startling advance in familiarity which these manners denote, one has only to reflect on their possible application to the leaders of the last generation of politicians. Can anyone imagine Mr. Disraeli, outside the circle of his relatives, being addressed as "Benny", or "Benjy", or even "Benjamin"? Dizzy he was called, but never to his face, except by that impudent buffoon, Bernal Osborne. And this reminds us that there are a great many statesmen, who are called by disrespectful Bernal Osborne. And this reminds us that there are a great many statesmen, who are called by disrespectful abbreviations behind their back. Mr. Chamberlain is often spoken of as "Joe", but we would wager a considerable portion of our substance that he is never so addressed to his face—though Mr. Bowles in his famous Joseph Speech went perilously near. It is inconceivable that the stately Pitt should ever have been addressed as "Billy"; yet the Parliamentary records have it that when his friend Dundas was condemned for malversation by the casting vote of the Speaker, the rowdy Whigs crowded up to the Treasury bench "to see how Billy Pitt looked". Is it thinkable that anyone should ever have clapped Lord Salisbury on the back and called him "Bobby", or even "Robert"? There is a kind of floating tradition that there is, or was, a man who, having been with him at Eton and Christchurch, who, having been with him at Eton and Christchurch, was in the habit of speaking to Mr. Gladstone as "William". But serious and well-informed men regard the statement as apocryphal, and stoutly disbelieve in the existement as apocryphal, and stoutly disbelieve in the existence of such a person. For some reason, there is a great deal more of this affectionate familiarity on the Conservative front bench (on whichever side of the Speaker it may be), than on the Radical front bench. We remember to have heard Sir William Harcourt address one of his co-tenants as "a damned fool"; but we cannot recall any nearer approach to intimacy amongst the Radical leaders than this somewhat ambiguous phrase. ambiguous phrase.

It is all a matter of fashion. No one pretends that the Prime Minister is less respected or respectable than his predecessors; and if we have made Mr. Balfour the peg whereon to hang our moral, it is only because he is the first man in the country. The fashion is fostered by the habit of playing bridge and golf. It is difficult to treat with distant respect a partner who has "missed the globe" on the teeing ground. A friend asked a distinguished statesman the other day, "How can you ever play bridge with So-and-so" (naming a leader of Opposition) "again, after his outrageous attack on your good faith in the House the other night?" "It was a disgraceful attack", replied the Minister thoughtfully, "and I shall not play bridge

with him again—for a fortnight". Putting aside the fashion, which has only widened the area of a pre-existent custom, why is it that there are some men whom it is almost impossible to call by their Christian name or a nickname, while there are others whom it is almost impossible to address in any other way? What subtle something is there in the character of one man, which eggs you on to call him "Toby", or "Jacko"? And what is the opposite quality in another man which seals your lips at the bare thought of "Topps" or "Tommy" or even "Arthur"? Anthony Trollope, if we remember right, devotes a good many pages in one of his books to discussing this mystery. The novelist decides that there must be something ridiculous, or mean, or at least weak, in the character of one whom every body calls by a Christian or nickname. Diffidently, but emphatically, we differ from so great an observer of human nature as Trollope. We know men who are invariably treated with ceremonious respect, and who are in no wise respectable, who are mean, and ridiculous, and weak as water. On the other hand we know men of real strength and simplicity of character, and therefore fortified with a natural dignity which is always at command when wanted, who are almost universally addressed by some kindly little name which was affixed to them in boyhood. A good deal, of course, depends upon whether you know a man in his family. If you are in the habit of hearing a man called "Harry" by his sister or wife or mother, it is difficult to avoid calling him so yourself. So far from agreeing with Trollope we go the length of saying that the being called by a short name raises a presumption in favour of a man's character. Does it not show that his fellows like and trust him? and what more can you say in anyone's favour than that? Reserved and inexpansive natures never take kindly to what we have called the fashion of Arthur, which is, like all other modes, in danger of becoming ridiculous by unwarrantable imitation.

THE UNIVERSITY TRIAL EIGHTS.

SINCE the beginning of the October term the Presidents of the Oxford and Cambridge boat clubs have been hard at work sifting the material at their disposal with a view to making up their crews for next March. Mr. Chapman, the Cambridge president, has of the two the lighter task. There are in residence five of last year's winning crew. Mr. Nelson who rowed stroke, and who was prevented by an accident at the eleventh hour from rowing at Henley; Mr. Chapman, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Edwards Moss who all helped Third Trinity to win the Grand Challenge Cup; and Mr. Grylls who rowed so well at "six" in the University Boat Race. All of the above are certain to be called upon to row again, and there are consequently only three vacancies in the University crew to be filled by members of the Trial Eights. Although the vacancies to be filled are few the president will have no little difficulty in finding candidates to fill them whose form is in any way to be compared with that of the five old "blues". The form displayed by the Trial Eights was not good. In both crews there was a tendency to hurry forward and miss the beginning and the weights were insufficiently used during the latter half of the stroke. These are both faults which should if possible have been eradicated while the men were rowing in the heavy trial boats, for they are such as tend to get worse rather than better when the men are moved into a light boat on the lively water of the Thames. It was unfortunate too that the race at Ely last Saturday was not more closely contested. The Trial Eight races at the two Universities are perhaps the only races which are rowed with the object, not of ascertaining which is the faster crew, but of observing the merits of the individual performers; and in order to observe those merits satisfactorily it is essential that the race should be a close one. In the race at Ely last Saturday one crew led from the start and in the end won very easily so that the authorities saw eight of the men toiling in a beaten crew which is not a rea

Of the heavy weights Mr. Carter of King's showed considerable promise and if he can learn to row in a rather less ponderous style he will be a valuable acquisition for the University crew; but with this exception none of the men showed such conspicuous merit as to justify a definite prophecy that they will be selected to

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At Oxford there are five of last year's crew available:
Mr. Long, Mr. Adams, Mr. Drinkwater, Mr. D.
Milburn and Mr. G. Milburn, but it is possible that they
will not all be called upon to row again. They are by no means so good a foundation upon which to build a crew as the old "blues" in residence at Cambridge and it was extremely important that great care should be exercised in the selection and coaching of the Trial Eights. Mr. Long, the president, has performed the duties of his office with great patience and skill, with the result that the two eights which raced last Saturday above the average of crews usually seen at ford. In practice one of the crews showed itself to be considerably faster than the other, and in order to lessen the probability of a runaway race a new expedient was resorted to namely that of placing two stone of dead weight in the faster boat. The result of this experiment was an extremely interesting and closely contested race. The crews were never clear from start contested race. The crews were never clear from start to finish and the boat with the dead weight on board eventually won by barely a quarter of a length. Those on board the umpire's launch were thus able to come to a definite conclusion as to the merits or the reverse of the various performers. The style was, on the whole, good. The men were rowing on 13-inch slides (the usual length being 16 inches) and the sacrifice of swing to leg-drive was not so noticeable as it was in the Oxford crews at Henley last July. Mr. Monier-Williams rowed with pluck and judgment as stroke of the winning crew, and he will probably be called upon to occupy that important position in the University boat. Mr. Field, who has hitherto been chiefly distinguished as a sculler, rowed remarkably well in the losing crew, and there is no reason why he should not with careful coaching develop into a first-class heavy-weight. Of the others Messrs. Drinkwater, D. Milburn, and Willis were the best. and Willis were the best.

In comparing the material at the two Universities there can be no doubt that at the present stage Cam-bridge have considerably the better of the argument, and although they have lost two of their strongest men, they should be able to turn out a crew nearly as good as that of last spring. The Oxford crew of 1903 should be better than that of 1902. They have no single oarsman of conspicuous merit, but they have a lot of good average material from which to form a crew lot of good average material from which to form a crew, and if they put the right men into the right places there and if they put the right men into the right places there is no reason why they should not form a speedy combination. Their coach Mr. W. A. L. Fletcher is away in India and it is rumoured that Mr. R. C. Lehmann is to assist Messrs. C. K. Philips and G. C. Bourne in the coaching. It is said that Mr. Bristowe, Mr. W. Dudley Ward and Mr. C. J. D. Goldie will coach Cambridge and, if that is so, it goes without saying that they will be well cared for in that respect. After their experience of last year Oxford will not again experiment with short boats, but intend to give their order to Messrs. Sims of Putney for a ship of the normal type.

THE MODERN GAME OF BRIDGE.

THIS game as understood by municipal bodies and THIS game as understood by municipal bodies and tramway companies is going merrily forward, and the claim of beauty to take a hand is steadily ignored. Kew Bridge, the finest in outer London, is down; Sonning Bridges are threatened. In the case of Kew, it would have been simple enough, one would think, to make the new utilitarian bridge lower down the river, and certainly worth while for beauty. At Sonning I do not know what the press of traffic may be; but to the world outside, Sonning exists as a place where there are beautiful bridges: these spoiled, it will cease to exist. Perhaps even the traffic will be less, so that Sonning might well pause, on the meanest grounds of self-interest. And there is still Richmond Bridge. A tramway stands scowling at it: the far side is too steep, even with a new bridge, for convenience, so that the project will presently be to pull the old down and rebuild elsewhere. Before it is too late, let us rally and prevent this last disgrace.

But the question of the moment is the rebuilding of a bridge already down, that at Vauxhall. Art has up

bridge already down, that at Vauxhall. a bridge already down, that at Vauxhall. Art has up till now been severely snubbed in this affair, and very likely, to some extent, has deserved the treatment. The most notable development of building in the nine-teenth century was that of iron and steel construction, and its chief monuments were not churches and palaces but exhibition buildings, railway stations and bridges, markets and factories. The name given to the designers of these was not architect but engineer, and this alone proves that there was a break in continuity, that "art" failed to take the considerable jump necessary to accommodate itself to the new construction. The builders were divided up into those who did not profess art, but had the big constructions to carry out, and those who did profess art, but only in terms of old-fashioned material and sentiment. We must beware of assuming, of course, that art has been the constant and exclusive possession of the architects. The proportion of architects who had any real claim to the name of artist was small indeed; and the attempts of these men to produce beauty seldom give the mind so much satisfaction as the simple effort of the engineer to produce efficient construction for a given purpose. "engineer" has sometimes scored a success in the domain of the "architect", as in the Museum building of the Exhibition Road. But the rather superior and sulking attitude of architects and critics has had this luckless result that engineers, bullied by the cry for "art", have either themselves added to their constructions the decorative devices of the thirdrate architect, or employed that gentleman to do it himself. Every trained engineer is capable of adding detail in this sense; it is the merest child's play to anyone who can command the use of compasses and a T-square; and the engineer, who is probably a humbleminded man, anxious to do what is required of him, must be astonished when he finds himself called to account for these decorative additions. Take the case of the Tower Bridge. Here the engineer had to solve a serious problem in the construction of this swing-bridge on a gigantic scale. a serious problem in the construction of this swing-bridge on a gigantic scale. This he solved very completely and added the elaborate convenience of the second roadway above the first, which is never used and remains a monstrous toy. But he was perfectly willing to let "art" have its fling once all the difficulties that appeared to him serious were met, and some unknown quantity, engineering or architectural, was employed to add the "art". This person, whoever he may have been, was only a few years in arrear of architectural taste. "Ah", he said to himself, "I'll build them two Gothic castles, and then they won't have anything to say against a modern bridge". The build them two Gothic castles, and then they won't have anything to say against a modern bridge". The architects, who had just renounced the idea that "art" meant making modern buildings look like Gothic castles, were of course furious with this abominable parody, which they had thoroughly deserved, but so slowly does opinion spread that the other day in the County Council Committee a member remarked, in support of the Vauxhall project, that the Tower Bridge was generally admitted to be a thing of Tower Bridge was generally admitted to be a thing of

Such then is the divorce between construction and decoration in this country. There are individual exceptions, but there can be little doubt that for large public tions, but there can be little doubt that for large public works it is commoner in France than it is with us to find engineer and architect working together in intelligent co-operation, or actually united in the same person. Take, for example, the huge new railway station, the Gare d'Orléans. M Leloup, its designer, was his own engineer. In its detail, there was collaboration, and a great deal of this one cannot admire. Nay, one might say that the engineering part would be better for having less "architecture". But the whole thing takes its place as a big monument, neither pretending to be what it is not, nor breaking too shockingly from its surroundings. The same is true of the great Alexander bridge, again

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open to criticism in detail, but a big decorative, as well

as constructive conception.

Compare with this the history of the latest bridge Compare with this the history of the latest bridge project in London, that for Vauxhall.* The former engineer to the Council determined to be his own architect and produced a design of mixed granite and iron construction. The incongruities of this were shown up by representatives of the Institute of British Architects and other critics. He then produced a second design of granite and concrete which was again pulled to pieces by the critics. to pieces by the critics. Meantime the preparation of foundations for the granite piers proceeded, and it is now said that these foundations have proved insufficient for the weight of granite and steel or granite and concrete. The official reason given for reverting to steel alone for the superstructure is that the headway under the granes at high tide would have been steeled. under the arches at high tide would have been too small. The case for the steel bridge under this second head is none of the clearest, but if it is true that the foundations require it, a steel bridge it evidently must be. A design for this has been presented by Sir A. Binnie's successor, and again the tedious but necessary battery of criticism has been brought to bear upon it. It is much more modest as an evesore, than the Tower Bridge, but the character of eyesore than the Tower Bridge, but the character of its detail is poor enough, and the treatment of mouldings does not, as it should, declare that one part is steel, another, granite. Again there has been a calling in of semi-Gothic forms, not only wrong in scale and starved in character, but unfortunate because by association they make us hate the iron for not being stone. Iron has its own distinctive motives: out of its work and rivet-heads it is possible to get pleasant enough design, and colour too, if we do not paint it chocolate-red. What is wanted is a mind big enough to accept the steel conditions, if they are neces-

enough to accept the steel conditions, if they are necessary, and make of them a virtue in the light framework of the spans, reducing the granite and the ideas of granite to their necessary part in the structure.

The Bridges Committee has, I believe, so far yielded as to put the design in the hands of their architect for revision. That gentleman may, for aught we know, be equal to the task laid upon him, but his office is not understood to include the designing of green office is not understood to include the designing of great public monuments like this, which ought to go to a proved man, and the best available. What an extraordinary thing it is that public departments find so much difficulty in discovering who the men of real authority are, and bungle things through between the unknown quantity and the scrimmage of public criticism. The County Council is not, I believe, so impenetrable to reason in these matters as Parliament. They have already called in Mr. Norman Shaw to judge in the Strand Improvement Competition, and when that scheme fell through, were indebted to him for overhauling the building that occupies part of the site. Why do they not go to him in a case like this? He is a man of fully-recognised authority, ripe experience, and he has renounced the bulk of his private practice. Or again there is Mr. Lethaby, whom they appointed to conduct their schools of design. I mention names, because it is absurd to criticise, and suggest no definite plan. Committees of taste, which have been suggested, are, I am convinced, unworkable. The root of the mischief is committees. They are a necessary evil in the work of politics and administration, but, as the present conduct of the National Gallery shows, they kill any definite action in matters of taste. A committee from the Academy or the Institute might contain good men, but it might also contain indifferent, and the decision of a committee is that kind of compromise which in art is called mediocrity

I have to neglect the exhibitions for this "matter of regent public interest", but I will call attention to the urgent public interest", but I will eall attention to the exhibition of Méryon's etchings at Messrs. Obach's. Not only is there a set of rare and in some cases unique impressions to be seen, but a number of exquisite pencil studies for the plates. I may instance the drawing for the "Bain Chevrier", in some ways a finer composition

* For details see an article in "The Architectural Review" for December by Mr. W. D. Caroe.

than the finished design, and lovely in its firm and delicate lines. Mr. Wedmore, an old devotee of these

than the inished design, and lovely in its mind delicate lines. Mr. Wedmore, an old devotee of these masterpieces, has supplied a useful catalogue.

My friendly critic, Mr. Hain Friswell, is holding a small exhibition at the Goupil Gallery. His work is much less controversial than one would guess from his theories, and one or two of these studies (for example No. 11, "A Sunset") show a just and delicate eye for D. S. M. tone and colour.

HENRY J. WOOD AND STRAUSS.

LET me begin with a piece of reporting: On Satur-day afternoon, 6 December, Queen's Hall was thronged with an enthusiastic multitude who had come in their crowds to greet Mr. Henry J. Wood, lately recovered from a painful illness, Herr Strauss, and Madame Carreño. The Queen's Hall conductor was received with rapturous applause; while later on the Berlin master and the Spanish pianiste each gained a fair amount of approval. Our London musician I amount of approval. Our London musician devoted his energy to directing a performance of the Bonn master's Fifth symphony—we may add that it was singularly finely played; the fair Spaniard gave us a notable rendition of a piano concerto of Tschaikowsky, in which the S. Petersburg composer is not at his best; and the young German maestro conducted a symphonic poem of his own.

This thus that musical criticism is written for the

Tis thus that musical criticism is written for the daily papers, it is thus that it must be written: nothing less ornate will suit your old-fashioned daily editor. "Always find the appropriate epithet" said a recently deceased editor to a friend of mine; "for instance always speak of the 'chivalrous' Jean de Reszke". My feeble pinions will not sustain me long at these dizzy heights of fancy: let me therefore proceed in my wonted style, after an apology for the lamentable weakness which, as was lately pointed out with perfect justice, prevents me keeping up the flowery manner of some of my brethren of the daily press.

One of the lamentable was undoubtedly commend on Saturday.

Queen's Hall was undoubtedly crammed on Saturday, and undoubtedly the crowd had come to hear Messrs. Wood and Strauss and Madame Carreño. This was precisely the cheering aspect of the affair. No royalties were announced; it was neither a charity bazaar nor a political meeting: those people put up with cold journeys, the risk of not getting a seat and the further risk of not getting home after the concert, and all to hear-or at least to see-three distinguished artists. Mr. Newman must have felt rewarded for the enterprise which led him to allow ten rehearsals for the "Heldenwhich led him to allow ten rehearsals for the "Helden-leben" of Richard Strauss, and the ultimate success of the performance must have been equally pleasing to Mr. Wood. But to go through the programme in the proper order, I will deal first, if briefly, with Mr. Wood's playing of the Fifth symphony. It goes without saying that the conductor was wildly cheered on making his reappearance after a long enforced absence. I can quite understand it: what I cannot understand is how London has got along without Mr. Wood. On this occasion he played finely, though not so finely as on some previous occasions. He was a little too strenuous: he turned the lime-light on to particular niches and ornaments and gargoyles in Beethoven's niches and ornaments and gargoyles in Beethoven's gigantic structure and prevented us gaining a full sense of the vastness of the whole. But after all, it is ungrateful to find fault where there was so much of beauty and strength. One felt that here was the elemental thing, the thing that no man can ever imitate. Those who are foolish enough to write music at all, in an age that is divided between Academicism and musical carmedy will understand my meaning and musical comedy, will understand my meaning when I say that in listening to a Tschaikowsky or Brahms symphony one feels that there is a thing another man might do better or worse or as well; and that in listening to Beethoven at his strongest one realises the futility of ever trying to come near that. It seems like no piece of man's handiwork, but like a mountain moulded in everlasting granite. If there is a flaw, it is in the instrumentation: for instance, where the strings bury the wood-wind in the first movement, or where the

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double-bassoon—the contrafagotto of Covent Garden—blazes away and is never heard in the last. Those things can and should be faked; for we do not now-adays play Beethoven on the orchestra for which he wrote. Mr. Wood faked very well at the beginning; but occasionally he lacked audacity in the finale.

The next item was Tschaikowsky's B flat minor piano capacity. As a Tschaikowsky's B flat minor piano

The next item was Tschaikowsky's B flat minor piano concerto. As a Tschaikowsky admirer I declare this thing fit only for the music hall. It was played with plenty of energy by Madame Carreño, who took an encore. Now the programme was long and we had a fearful ordeal to look forward to. We wanted all our faculties to give Strauss a fair hearing; every bit of energy used up beforehand left so much less for Strauss. If the lady wanted to damage Strauss' chance, I can only congratulate her on the admirable means she took

to secure that end.

Then came the great affair of the afternoon—the "Heldenleben". It had been extensively boomed in the press. There can be no objection to that. If Wagner had not been boomed there would be no Bayreuth to-day. Booming not only advertises a man: it also tests him. If he has the real stuff in him he "gets there" quicker; if he has not he goes under quicker; in either case he arrives more quickly at something approximate to his true position. The true position of Strauss cannot yet be determined. His boom is largely American. Columbus went forth from Europe to discover America—although all good Americans, who have been there, deny it—and in return Mr. James Huncker came from America to discover Europe and Richard Strauss. I fancy it is only because Strauss' name is Richard that Mr. Huncker waxes so enthusiastic over him: there ought to be one Richard on the list of the most devoted Brahms worshipper. Anyhow, possibly as the result of the booming, nearly the whole audience sat patiently through the "Heldenleben" last Saturday. A few cantankerouslooking females departed in the middle; but that was all. The main body probably thought they had got full value for their money by the time the piece was finished. They heard the most complete orchestra we have had in London for some time; assuredly they heard one of the most intricate orchestral pieces ever written. The score of the "Heldenleben" is appallingly complicated. It is not wonderful that ten rehearsals were necessary. Not only is there a vast number of parts, but each part is difficult—full, as amateurs say, of "accidentals" and unforeseen changes of key. When it is done one asks oneself Was all this necessary; has anything been saks oneself Was all this necessary; has anything been saks oneself Was all this necessary; has anything been sak oneself was all this necessary; has anything been sak oneself was all this necessary; has anything been sake oneself was all this necessary to the whole I am inclined to answer Yes. There are pages on pages which mean absolutel

Let us see what it is all about. In no spirit of flippancy, but quite deliberately, I say that Strauss, like many young Germans, appears to have swallowed Nietzsche whole, as a boa constrictor swallows a rabbit. And from Nietzsche he has spun the following plot for his symphonic poem. The young man (the "hero") comes, meets enemies, meets the fair companion and sings a love duet with her, fights the enemies and routs them, begins his "works of peace" only to find there are other enemies to overcome, overcomes them by renouncing the world, retires "into the innermost depths of his own thoughts and feelings", completes further works of peace, and dies. There is a new and original idea for the twentieth century to bring forth! Yet Strauss seriously sets music to it. Oh for a little more intellect! Why, this stuff is older than the everlasting hills, and had been worked to death before Strauss was born. The Straussites—not to be confounded with those who truly appreciate Strauss—make two mutually destructive claims for him. First, he has expressed in music great and dignified ideas; second, his music must be regarded as expressing the emotions aroused by those ideas and not the ideas themselves. I assumed that Strauss wished to express ideas because of the titles he gave his scores and different portions of his scores, and because I found little emotion in his music. Two kind

gentlemen, Mr. Huncker and Mr. Baughan, immediately set me right—or rather they delicately, tenderly dissected me, picked away the harmful portions of my anatomy, and left me to heal myself as best I could. For the consideration they showed while performing this ante-mortem operation I can never be sufficiently grateful. But lo! ere I could remove my mangled remains from the surgeon's table Strauss also was dissected—that is, he was interviewed—and he took my view of the matter. "Metaphysics and music" he declared "are sister arts. . . I see no reason why ideas should not be expressed in music". Nor I, neither: the only hindrance being that they cannot be. And that they cannot be the "Heldenleben" is a convincing proof. I swear that without Strauss' own programme no man could guess at its meaning. But since many an artist has builded better than he knew, and since some of Strauss' ideas are of the sort that arrive bathed in emotion, let us see how much of this emotion has found its way into his music. There are other considerations: what is the music worth as sheer music, what are the descriptive portions worth as description?

The first part, I admit, means nothing to me. Wagner's various heroic themes are comprehensible enough; so is the "Parsifal as Fool" theme; so is the opening theme of Beethoven's heroic symphony. But this hop-skip-and-a-jump thing of Strauss, and those abrupt skirls for the strings—they are meaningless and not beautiful. And what on earth can be meant by those solo violin bravura passages? The farcical Academics' theme—the enemies—is good enough fun at the expense of the German equivalents of our own Mackenzies and Stanfords—the little gibbering schoolmasters stand revealed in every phrase. And similarly when the schoolmasters get some power into their hands, and use it, the transformation of the theme is done in a masterly way. Again the battle is good descriptive music. The "companion" themes are really charming; and finally the close of the work is of a rare loveliness and full of profound feeling. This, then, is what I see in the "Heldenleben". It is a finely built work—that is to say, the different portions are well balanced though to me some of the portions seem not worth the balancing. Throughout the old mastery of the art of placing notes is apparent; and at the finish there is shown a consummate artistic technique—there is the artistic intention perfectly realised.

artistic intention perfectly realised.

It is ridiculous in a critic to offer advice. If a composer has the right stuff in him he will find himself at last; and any man with the grit in him to work until he does find himself will scorn to be turned to one side or the other by advisers, mean they never so well. But the critic may at least utter a wish. I wish that Strauss would leave alone this poor Nietzsche pseudophilosophy and look at life with his own eyes and feel it with his own heart. Then we might expect something wholly original, wholly beautiful. There are hundreds of men in Germany who can take uninteresting, colourless, unpregnant strings of notes and spin barren symphonies from them. Strauss is merely chief of them at present, with something added. That something needs to be developed; in it lies the best, truest Strauss. If he would leave the class-room and the study and realise that there are the open air, sunrises, sunsets, waters, woods and green fields, the seas and the winds, and above all that there are the common griefs and joys of mankind (which Nietzsche held to be of small account) as well as the lofty intellectual aspirations (of which Nietzsche made so much), he might find the inspiration to write some of the finest music of this century. I dare not advise him to do it: I only wish he would.

A FEUILLETON-PLAY.

I HAVE never, to the best of my belief, met one of the many thousands of souls who read daily, with fervid gusto, the feuilletons printed in the halfpenny morning papers. Nor has whatever time I may have wasted been wasted after the fashion of these folk. But I have, now and again, read an instalment of a

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feuilleton, with the synopsis which is there to comfort those who have been travelling abroad, or who have only learnt to read, since the tale began. These casual studies have made me no scoffer. I think that to write one of these feuilletons must be quite a difficult task, requiring a special gift specially developed. To project a number of absolutely unreal but strongly-defined characters, to involve them in a sad, lurid, happily-ending story, and to throw round them an atmosphere which shall be undeniably "wholesome", is by no means all that our feuilletonist must do. He must so unfold his story that when it is cut up into small sections of uniform length every section shall have in itself something to hit the reader straight between the eyes and to be clearly remembered by him for the rest of the day, making him long for to-morrow morning. The peculiar conditions under which he works prevent him from indulging in didactic philosophy. Brief interludes of broad comic relief he may give us; but not his to teach us that the Church of Rome is wicked or that Society is hollow. Such profound lessons as these can be inculcated only in the form of a book. And as it is for them alone that the British public really respects an author, the poor feuilletonist lives and dies obscure, inglorious. He gives an immense amount of pleasure, but he gets sadly little in return. His name is on no man's lips. Where he lives or what he looks like, no man knows or cares. Except a slight emolument, his sole guerdon is in the perfection of his work. He is a type, albeit a humble type, of sheer artistry.

Last week I found (where, you shall learn anon) an application of the content of the profession of the profession

"Let us step out on to the balcony."... Two gentlemen were shown in to the apartment. The taller of the two was Captain Richard Haynes, the shorter was the Rev. Walter Maxwell, both old friends of Henry... They espied the two figures linked arm in arm on the balcony. "By Jove, what a beautiful woman!"... For an instant Henry Traquair stood silent. Then "Gentlemen", said he, "allow me to present you to my wife!" [To be continued to-morrow.] "Seen the papers?" asked the Captain. "Awful bank-smash, that." "What bank?" asked Traquair listlessly... His face was ghastly to behold. "Every penny I had in the world" he muttered hoarsely.... "But", Margaret pleaded, "I love you none the less dearly because you are not wealthy. You can work. With me ever at your side".... Work? He? He who had never yet turned his hand to anything—he to whom self-indulgence had become a second nature? He pushed her from him almost roughly. "You will just have time to catch the boat-train back to England"... At the door she paused. His head was still sunk in his hands. Ah, had he even then looked round, who knows but that ... The door closed ... He rose and touched the electric bell. He bade the waiter bring him his dressing-case—there was something in it that he needed. He seated himself at the writing-table and commenced to write. "Bring me some sealing-wax", he said, as the waiter re-entered

the apartment. "Here is a stick of black sealing-wax, but perhaps Monsieur would prefer red?" "The black will do", said Traquair without looking up from his

I find that these verbatim fragments would overfill my space if I persisted in them. Accordingly, I must give you the rest of the story in the form of a synopsis. Three years elapse after the suicide of Henry Traquair. Margaret Fielding is safely at home. No one knows her to have been the heroine of that painful escapade. Even the Rev. Walter Maxwell (who is now vicar of the parish in which she lives) suspects nothing, for he has become blind. His blindness does not prevent him from loving her. He makes her an offer of marriage, which she accepts. They are very happy in their married life. But Captain Haynes comes to visit his old friend and recognises in his old friend's wife the lady whom his other old friend had introduced as his wife. Mrs. Maxwell persists in denying that Captain Haynes has ever seen her before. She does not carry conviction. To make matters worse, in steps an eminent oculist. Her husband regains his eyesight. He shrinks from her in horror. She is too proud to explain to him that she is not what he takes her for. But Captain Haynes was the recipient of the letter written by Traquair before his suicide, and this letter, which clears Mrs. Maxwell's reputation, he tardily produces. So all ends

Now, I think you will agree that my feuilleton promises well. If it fail, it will fail through my own technical inexperience, not through any flaw in its scheme. But in any case I shall be much surprised if it be treated as literature by the literary critics. I dare not hope, for example, that Mr. W. L. Courtney will devote to it a column of grave discrimination in the "Daily Telegraph". I dare not hope that he will say of it that, though it is in no sense a great book, "it is in the best sense of the words, a conventional book—good convention being, as we understand the matter, an indispensable element in every good book", or that he will be moved by it to reflect that "the absence of human foresight is the novelist's opportunity, and the headlong acceptance of every event as it comes is the very essence of romantic fiction", or that he will picture my readers as "dimly anticipating the complications which Destiny has in store". Thus my modesty brings me to the point at which I have been aiming—the very different standards which are applied to drama and to literature. The scheme of my feuilleton was suggested by a play produced last week, with very great success, at the Haymarket Theatre. The author of this play is Captain Marshall, and its title (which will be also the catchy title of my feuilleton) is "The Unforeseen". The style in which my tentative fragments are written does not, of course, echo the style in which Captain Marshall has written his dialogue. The only fault to be found with Captain Marshall's dialogue is that it is too literary: his characters are apt to talk more like books than like human beings. But, for the rest, my feuilleton is his play accurately translated into terms of fiction. Suppose, just suppose, that Mr. Courtney will be condemned to read my feuilleton, when it is published, and to write a column about it; and then imagine what he will say of it! And yet my instances of what he could not conceivably say of it are accurate transcripts of what he has said of Captain Marshall's ori

his fellow-playwrights by a standard somewhat less remote from the standard by which they judge even the

humblest writers of books.

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MORE PROVISION FOR OLD AGE.

W^E described last week an attractive policy issued by the Norwich Union Life Office for providing at the cost of a moderate annual payment, a substantial income from age 50, or any later age, until death. Another new policy, accomplishing a somewhat similar purpose, has quite recently been introduced by the Mutual Life Association of Australasia, one of the best, perhaps the best, Colonial Life office doing business in the United Kingdom. The endowment assurance prolicies of the Association are particularly good, and its policies of the Association are particularly good, and its policies of the Association are particularly good, and its annuity rates are more favourable than any sound British Life office is able to quote: the latter feature is doubtless due to the higher rate of interest which can be obtained upon good securities in the colonies. The new scheme of the Association is a combination of endowment assurance and annuity, and in introducing it the office is taking advantage of two features in which it is particularly strong. The Association values its liabilities on a stringent basis and consequently holds reserves which provide unimpeachable security for the fulfilment of its contracts.

The nature of the new policy may be judged from an example for age 25 at entry: at this age for an annual premium of £29 11s. 8d., until the attainment of age 60, premium of £29 11s. 8d., until the attainment of age 60, the policy guarantees, in the event of death from any cause between ages 25 and 60, a cash payment of £1,009. The prospectus does not make it clear whether or not this amount would be increased by quinquennial bonuses. Presumably it would not, but we are not sure. Even without the addition of bonuses the investment would prove a good one in the event of death before reaching the age of 60.

On the attainment of age 60 the policy-holder cap

death before reaching the age of 60. On the attainment of age 60 the policy-holder can take an annuity of £100 a year, payable for twenty years to the assured if he lives, or to his legal representatives should he die within twenty years after reaching the age of 60. If the policy-holder prefers to take a cash payment in place of the annuity for twenty years, he is entitled to receive £1,009, and in addition a house at the rate of cos per cent per annum which years, he is entitled to receive £1,000, and in addition a bonus at the rate of 30s. per cent. per annum, which amounts to £529, making a total cash payment of £1,538. These figures are quoted under the head of "guaranteed benefits", so that presumably the bonus of £529 is a guaranteed addition to the policy, and not a bonus in the ordinary sense of the word, which implies that the amount is desendent upon future profits. that the amount is dependent upon future profits.

We have examined this scheme with considerable care, but while fully recognising the many attractions which it offers we are disposed to think that better results can be obtained by a combination of policies in other companies. For instance an endowment assurance policy at age 25 with participation in profits can be obtained from the Alliance for an annual premium of £27 15s. 10d., as against £29 11s. 8d. charged by the Mutual of Australasia. The bonus, dependent on profits, declared, and likely to be maintained, by the Alliance, is a compound reversionary addition at the rate of 30s. per cent. per annum, which would make the sum assured at age 60, £1,659 as against £1,538 in the Mutual of Australasia for a higher premium. The policy of the colonial office apparently does not increase in value until age 60 is reached; whereas in the Alliance the sum assured would be greater year by year, and at the current rate for annuities certain quoted other companies. For instance an endowment assurance year, and at the current rate for annuities certain quoted by the Hand-in-Hand the cash value of the Alliance endownent assurance policy would purchase an annuity for twenty years of £111 8s. It will thus be seen that, by taking a policy in the Alliance, £1 15s. 10d. per annum is saved in premiums, the cash value of the policy is greater in the event of death at least between policy is greater in the event of death at least between ages 30 and 60, and on attaining the latter age the probable cash value of the Alliance policy is greater than the certain cash value of the colonial policy to the extent of £121; while at current rates for annuities the annual subsequent payment for twenty years is £11 more than the Mutual of Australasia guarantees.

This comparison is very instructive. The scheme put forward by the Mutual of Australasia is most attractive, and the results are excellent; but a critical examination shows that even a better return may be obtained on similar lines by a judicious selection of the

obtained on similar lines by a judicious selection of the

policy taken.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HUSTLING AWAY OF JAMES II.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW. Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, S.W.

-Your correspondent C. W. is not quite correct as to his facts.

He shoots a Parthian arrow in the remark that "all authorities are agreed that Grinling Gibbons was born of Dutch parents at Rotterdam". He was certainly born at Rotterdam, but there is good authority for

supposing that his father was an Englishman.

Can C. W. have become a little mixed as to James II. and Charles I. and Charles II. and John Evelyn and Grinling Gibbons and the seventeenth century generalized.

Your obedient servant, F. C. H.

ENGLISH WORDS FOR PLAINSONG.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Livorno, 24 November, 1902.

Livorno, 24 November, 1902.

SIR,—Mr. E. G. P. Wyatt wishes that when J. F. R. "dogmatises" upon the unsuitability of plain chant to English words, he would state his reasons. I suppose he really means that J. F. R. should state his reasons and not dogmatise. But it really is a case for laying down the law, for the law is well ascertained: it were indeed late in the day to set about proving by reason that Latin is the finest liturgical language in Western Christendom. I grant that the Psalms in English are just tolerable in the eight "Toni Psalmorum", but does Mr. Wyatt mean us to understand that the Antiphons. Christendom. I grant that the Psalms in English are just tolerable in the eight "Toni Psalmorum", but does Mr. Wyatt mean us to understand that the Antiphons, Versicles and Responsories of the Hours, the Introits, Graduals and Offertories of the Mass, which were written to give effective expression to certain Latin words, would sound just as effective if sung in English? Then I would venture to dogmatise with J. F. R. and say that such a notion could only be due to defective taste and a deficient ear. Only think of the noble recitative of the Prefaces of the Mass, to have written one of which Mozart said he would have given all his glory as a composer; take would have given all his glory as a composer; take the sonorous "Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare", and substitute, if you can, to the same rhythm the plain Saxon "It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty"; it won't fit, and was never intended to fit, and incidentally we learn another lesson: the Saxon was meant to be said, the Latin alone was

meant to be sung.

I do not think—and I doubt if J. F. R. does—that anyone will ever invent "some form of sinewy, expressive, simple melody" for use in the English Church. The music of the Church universal has been written once and for all time, once and for all men, and to fit the words of a universal language. A mere nation never did, never could, write Church music for its own use only, and perhaps only an islander could think such a thing. There is but one remedy for England and its adoption is perhaps more hopeless even than the invention of a new Church music:—to revert to that noble Latin language which was so lightly, nay so criminally, discarded at the time of the unhappy divisions in religion, and for the want of which public worship in these islands has suffered so grievously in decency

dignity and decorum.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, MONTGOMERY CARMICHAEL.

HYMNOLOGY.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Burnham Deepdale, 29 November, 1902. Sir, — Your correspondent Mr. Carter is only damaging his own cause when he chooses for his criticism what many regard as the sublime stanza,

> " Thine ageless walls are bonded With amethyst unpriced".

The author and translator knew well what they were about. S. Bernard de Morlaix and John Mason Neale do not need defenders.

Neither, may I say, with all reverence, does S. Paul.

Your obedient servant,

E. K. KERSLAKE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Sir,-Your Montreal correspondent writes about the lines-

"Her ageless walls are bonded With amethyst unpriced"—

that the wall might indeed be ageless when it was in process of building and the amethyst unpriced when it was cheap enough to be used in masonry—that the writer in fact said the opposite of what he meant. Now, Sir, however it may be in Montreal intelligent children on this side have never had any difficulty in understanding that the "ageless" wall is the wall that groweth not old and that the amethyst is "unpriced" because it is priceless. At the much more exceptionable metaphor "bonded" your correspondent does not cavil. I have not S. Bernard's Latin at hand to refer to. For surely, Sir, your correspondent cannot really be unaware, as his letter strongly suggests, that the lines of which he falls foul are merely part of a translation of that poem about the Homeland of Héaven, which has for many centuries been an integral part of European literature and was naturallised some fifty years ago in English by means of the patchy perhaps but on the whole beautiful and spirited version of Neale. The hymn "Disposer Supreme" is also obviously and on the face of it a translation, though not by Neale, and no candid mind will boggle over its "Pauline metonymies". Perhaps it is natural that those who are for ejecting S. Bernard from their church should also be found voting for the expulsion of S. Paul. That hymns are to be found deplorable in style and taste is all the more reason for not discrediting the crusade against them by what will surely strike most as mere captious perversity.

The first higgledy-piggledy manglers of hymns old and new had the effrontery to state in their preface that they had not carried out their purpose without prayer; but on the laborare est orare principle they would have prayed none the worse if they had been at the pains to provide a proper index of authors dates and sources. It cannot I imagine be unchristian to know that—

" Sion in her anguish With Babylon must cope"—

(a terribly forced rhyme and one of Neale's lapses) had once a meaning and what that meaning was—to catch the literary flavour of such lines as—

"To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds

or to delight in the simple beauty of Watts' line about the sun-

"Round the whole earth he flies and shines"!

I first knew this line and its authorship in a Scotch hymnal not unprovided with an index and I never have "nor never shall" forgive the old editors of the "Ancient and Modern" for the fact that if I want to find out about "Disposer Supreme" and Isaac Williams I shall have to go to the British Museum.

I am, &c.

A. N.

"OUR PEOPLE."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Hanford, California, 7 November, 1902.

SIR,—I am distressed to notice that the American invasion has at length made its mark on the language,

though happily it has not affected the sentiments, of the SATURDAY REVIEW. On page 447 in the REVIEW for 11 October, 1902, in the weekly note on the locking of church doors occurs that utterly American expression "our people". Do not these two words in combination breathe the passing spirit of undignified national self-consciousness? You will have noticed that they always make their appearance several times in the annual Presidential Message.

It always seems to me that the use of the expression (essentially tribal) must have arisen in the first instance either from overmuch familiarity with the Book of Ruth, or from frequent intercourse with the tribes of Indians in the colonial days. In any case there seems to be no need for English people to borrow the unlovely phrase from the Americans. Who are the possessing "we" implied in "our"?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S. C. S. HAMMOND.

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[Can our correspondent be surprised in these days at the Press, with the American President, taking a paternal view of the public? We could wish the Americans had never sent us anything worse than this phrase.—Ed. S. R.]

WANTED A SECONDARY SCHOOL INSPECTOR.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Technical Instruction Department, County Hall, Wakefield, 26 November, 1902.

SIR,—It may be of interest to your readers to know that the West Riding Technical Instruction Committee who, in December 1901, appointed a sub-committee to report as to the existing supply of secondary day schools in the Riding and at the same time arranged with the Board of Education for the inspection of over fifty secondary schools in the Riding, have now arrived at the conclusion that they must obtain the services of a thoroughly competent man possessed of sufficient scholastic attainments and administrative capacity to take up the work of inspecting secondary schools and dealing with other matters arising out of the report which the sub-committee have in hand, and will bring before the next meeting of the County Council in January next a proposal for making such an appointment. A small sub-committee is making inquiries in likely quarters with a view to finding a suitable man for such a post, and will be glad to receive communications accordingly.

I am, yours faithfully,

W. VIBART DIXON.

BAD LANGUAGE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Partickhill, Glasgow, I December, 1902.

SIR,—With reference to the letters of Mr. Upward and Mrs. Osborn, the explanations they give of the origin of the word "bloody" are ingenious enough but somewhat unsatisfactory. Dean Swift was nearer the mark, I think. He held that this common expletive was simply a corruption of the Irish "bloidhe", meaning "rather", and in this sense it was used by more than one seventeenth or eighteenth century writer.

I am, &c. W. W. G.

PYTHON-FEEDING AT THE ZOO.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—May I add a word to the discussion which has been raging on the above question? There is one very simple aspect of the matter which, so far as I have observed the correspondence, has escaped the notice of those who talk glibly about the "repulsive tragedy" of

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the python's method of feeding. They seem entirely to overlook the fact that the peculiar habit of the reptile in feeding is not due to the officials of the Zoo but to a much higher authority, namely, Nature herself. The most that those who keep wild animals in confinement can do for them is to feed them in the manner most nearly akin to that of their wild state, and if—as in the case of certain serpents—they insist on eating living food, the blame must be put upon the Providence which has so ordained it, surely a somewhat blasphemous view to take. Of course it is hard on the goat or other animal which provides the meal, but all Nature is cruel in that sense; one species living on and at the expense of others, and even on other members of its own kind. Are we then to refuse to examine and observe the wonderful specialisations in habit and structure which reptiles exhibit, simply because they have been evolved along lines which of necessity demand the performance of common functions in a somewhat unusual manner? The python's method of feeding is no more a cruel tragedy than is that of the thrush and the snail, only the one is a common example of a natural law, the other a somewhat strange one to our eyes.

Yours truly,

GERALD LEIGHTON M.D.

Cheltenham, 25 November, 1902.

FULMAR AND GUILLEMOT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,-I should like to withdraw any expression of

doubt which, in a letter written, now, some time ago, in answer to a correspondent, I may have used, in regard to the curious barking or yodelling cry of the guillemot. In another visit to the Shetlands during the latter end of the breeding season I have had ample opportunities of hearing this, and I do not know why two years ago in the very midst of the breeding, it was never uttered on the same ledges under the same conditions of close proximity. Possibly, however, this very fact may have had something to do with it, for now, when only a few chicks remained, the birds, who still crowded the ledges, acted in many ways as though the breeding was about to begin again. Still such as had chicks constantly yodelled over them, though quite close to me, and this before they had not done. As it would be impossible, in such circumstances, not to notice such a thing, I do not know how to account for this, but so it was. In regard to the note of the fulmar petrel I still found it peculiar, but must confess that it was less so than I had remembered it, and though my belief is that, contrary to what was the case with the guillemots, it had become much less marked than at the earlier period, yet I must state the fact, and, also, that in one of my statements, viz., that the guillemot and fulmar ledges were always widely separated, with the results following, my memory had deceived me. It therefore appears to me, now, more possible that I may have unconsciously added the distant note of the guillemot to the near one of the fulmar petrel, thinking it to belong equally to the latter bird. In view of this possibility I am sorry that I was so confident, but, having now said what I feel bound to say, I will add that I still consider the fulmar petrel's

nuptial note to be, at its best, a very striking affair, and that, though I may, in the way indicated, have unintentionally embellished it, yet, till I hear it again in the spring, I cannot, myself, feel quite sure of this.

I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.
EDMUND SELOUS.

[In confessing that he has erred as to the voice of fulmar petrel and guillemot Mr. Selous does himself honour. Far from distrusting him in future because of this admission the wise naturalist will but trust him the more. If the brilliant, impetuous Waterton had lived to admit his errors, it could only have added to his fame.—Ed. S. R.]

REVIEWS.

ANGLO-HISPANUS.

"The Land of the Dons." By Leonard Williams. London: Cassell. 1902. 15s. net.

M. R. WILLIAMS has some considerable advantages over the majority of the writers on Spain whose names figure in the elaborate bibliographies of M. Foulché-Delbosc and Dr. Farinelli. He does not attempt to produce a rival to "Across Spain on a Bicycle" or "A Motor Trip from Irún to Gibraltar", but Bicycle" or "A Motor Trip from Irun to Gibraltar", but he has lived for some years in the country, has studied the local customs, has learned the prevailing language, and is in general sympathy with what is called the Spanish temperament. All this is so much to the good. However, as the author himself declares, Spain is populated not by one single race, but by several races, and it is in the nature of things that Mr. Williams should be far heater accurainted with some districts than with others. better acquainted with some districts than with others. He is almost always worth reading when he gives the result of his own independent observations; but, unfortunately, he has determined to describe the characteristics of the people in each separate province, and this desire for completeness has rather diminished than increased the interest of his book. Nobody at this time of day cares to know what that painstaking nonentity Verdejo Páez thought of his fellow-countrymen at the Verdejo Páez thought of his fellow-countrymen at the beginning of last century, and yet Mr. Williams persists in copying from the "Descripción General de España" whole paragraphs containing the opinions of Verdejo Páez on things in general, and on Catalans, Aragonese, Extremeños, Leonese, Navarrese, Biscayans, Murcians and Valencians in particular. These quotations are mere padding of not the slightest importance or weight. Mr. Williams, indeed, seems to have very eccentric ideas as to the value of evidence. He cites Mme. d'Aulnay as though she were a most trustworthy witness. d'Aulnay as though she were a most trustworthy witness. Now, that this lady passes as the writer of a pert, ignorant and amusing book of travels in Spain is certain. What is far from being certain—and Mr. Williams should surely be aware of the fact—is that she was ever in Spain at all. Her name does not appear in the carefully-k registers of Bayonne; no contemporary allusion to her has hitherto been found in the Spanish archives; and there is hardly a passage in her work that cannot be found in previous writers. So far as the evidence goes, Mme. d'Aulnay's book would appear nothing better than a tolerably clever pastiche, and therefore her testimony must be received with extreme caution. Mr. Williams is distinctly unlucky in his witnesses. In the midst of an excellent chapter on witnesses. In the midst of an excellent chapter on Spanish popular poetry, a subject which he discusses with ability and tact, he breaks off suddenly to refer to García Gutiérrez whom he describes as "a recognised authority" on the matter. If Mr. Williams had chosen to praise García Gutiérrez as the author of "Simón Bocanegra" or "Juan Lorenzo", one could have understood (without sharing) his point of view; but it is astonishing that, because García Gutiérrez made the "refranes" the theme of his rambling inaugural speech at the Academy, this forgotten dramatist should be resuscitated and promoted to the rank of "a recognised authority" on intricate questions of scholarship and research. From allusions scattered up and down these pages it may easily be inferred that the author has given very little attention to Spanish literature. Who, for example, is the Marqués of Castellana, the "erudite" nobleman who is mentioned on page 91? The context enables us to guess that the allusion must refer to the famous Marqués de Santillana who, though he had a deal of miscellaneous reading to his credit, to the famous Marqués de Santillana who, though he had a deal of miscellaneous reading to his credit, cannot in the ordinary sense be described as learned. Santillana, in fact, belonged to the modern side: he knew Dante and Petrarch, and he admired Machault, Granson and Alain Chartier; as he is said to have written the "Votos del Pavón", he must evidently have read Jacques de Longuyon. But he humbly confesses that he knows no Latin—"como quiera que lo yo non sepa, porque yo no lo aprendi"—and that his ignorance of the "learned" language attracted remark seems to follow from the fact that Juan de Lucena pauses to take

note of it in his "Tratado de la vida beata". It is evident from these and other instances that Mr. Williams is speaking at fifth or sixth hand, and it is regrettable that he should lay down the law so dogmatically on matters of which he knows nothing, for these blunders are only too likely to give a wrong impression of his

book as a whole.

It would be a pity if they deterred readers from considering what the writer has to say on the condition of Spain. His information is generally exact and his reflections are shrewd. He is at his best when he describes Madrid and the Madrileños. He knows the city thoroughly, spares us extracts from the guidebooks, and gives a particularly bright and amusing picture of its sights, its humours, its bawling "traperos", its sharp-tongued "verduleras", and the peros", its sharp-tongued "verduleras", and the thousand and one little oddities that go to make up its life. And it is to his credit that he never takes on the amusing airs of the Superior Person. It is easy to guess that Mr. Williams, like most Englishmen settled in Spain, is a fanatical devotee of the bull-ring, and he is careful to observe, with a sly touch of humour, that the "plaza" at Algeciras is practically maintained by the garrison and shopkeepers of Gibraltar. It is only fair to add that he gives the most spirited description of a corrida that can be found in English: more minute of a corrida that can be found in English: more minute and faithful, if less picturesque, than the description by Théophile Gautier. He writes in a thoroughly sympathetic vein of the difficulties with which all Spanish Governments have to contend, and he comes forward with a list of eight practical reforms which, as he conceives, would make the old country into a new one. It is refreshing in these days to meet with this optimistic belief in the efficacy of political machinery, and we can only hope that the forecast may prove to be correct. Throughout his book Mr. Williams shows himself to be "hispanior hispanis". Indeed so Spanish has he become that, while he splits his English infinitives with a precision which should delight Mr. Shaw, his Spanish is almost impeccable. Yet we are surprised to find so staunch an admirer of Cervantes accentuating "Persiles" on the antepenulti-No doubt he can quote the example of Gayangos, and Gayangos was (as García Gutiérrez was not)
"a recognised authority". But Cervantes' authority
on this point is even greater, and in the "Viaje del
Parnaso" he establishes the right accentuation of the
word in the most unmistakable fashion. Still, these are small matters and, save when he touches upon literature, Mr. Williams may be trusted as a very intelligent and faithful guide.

SMART LECTURING ON ROME.

"Seven Roman Statesmen." By C. W. C. Oman. London: Arnold. 1902. 6s.

EVER since the precise limitation of the Final Classical School at Oxford, a hundred or more students have each year "satisfied the examiners" in a knowledge of Greek democracy and of Roman Cæsarism. It is an amusing hazard, whether the prevailing political tone depends upon the choice of studies. The words of a famous statesman the other day, speaking there in pledged secrecy and closed doors, have in spite of these precautions penetrated to the outer world, at least in substance; for to him the dominant Toryism of the academic city has only been slightly tempered by a thin admixture of "acid Radicalism". It is obvious that successive generations have been brought up on the conviction that the city-state of the Hellenes was an interesting political failure, and that the world-empire of the Cæsars, autocratic yet not strictly centralised, was the best solution of a difficult problem. It would not be hard to show that "freedom", in its modern sense, only appeared in the world under the beneficent rule of Augustus; and even to the prejudiced it is clear that then only was a political uniformity attained and the evils of privilege and caste overthrown. There was greater personal liberty for the average individual under the Empire than ever before or since until quite recent times. We may thus explain

the increasing interest which this transition arouses, and the more impartial and approving verdict which the leaders of the change merit and secure from the student. The volume before us forms an appendage (and also a striking contrast) to Mr. Greenidge's notable volume on Roman Constitutional History, severe, minute, and scholarly. Here is a bright jaunty little book dealing (like Lewes in his youthful "History of Philosophy") with the political development in a series of biographies. The deputy Chichele-Professor has laid himself out to be popular, and he has certainly succeeded. The Gracchi, Sulla, Crassus, Cato, Pompey and Cæsar trot by at a swinging pace,—no doctrinaire abstractions or pale ghosts of political tendencies, but men like ourselves with open motives and intelligible aspirations,—heroes of statecraft or ambition, partly the creatures of circumstance and destiny, partly sagacious and spontaneous movers of the pieces on the board.

But why is Cato substituted for the more obvious icero? Quite rightly Sulla and Cato (very different Cicero? characters) are bracketed as the only politicians in the period, of strictly "unselfish aim", -as "disinterested partisans of the optimates". Yet Cato's "deliberate archaism" had no lasting effect on the destiny either of Rome or his party; and his career, though interesting as a psychological study, is a mistaken intrusion here; for it spoils the unbroken continuity of the rest of the volume, and obliges the recapitulation of a narrative already clear. The work is full of of a narrative already clear. picturesque touches, enlightening parallels, shrewd judgments. "The Sullan regime had in it no place for Sullas"; "a party does not necessarily cease to exist because its programme is played out, more especially a party of discontent and criticism"; "Pompey aspired to be nothing but the first citizen in the republic, yet he helped to make the republic impossible"; Crassus, "a man without a programme" to whom "power was an end in itself", (just as in modern times undefined liberty has been) and "the patriotic impulse dwindles away into a vague and unfruitful pride"; Rome is "almost a Levantine city"; "a single omnipotent leader provided with the tribunate was needed to galvanise the sovereign people into activity: it could only put forth its strength if guided by an autocratic chief, using the one-man power which a democracy loses". Useful too are the historic analogies between senate and proconsul and East India Company's directors and Clive or Hastings; Roman Spain and North-West Indian frontier; agricultural depression of the age of Gracchus and our own after 1880; Marius as a "sort of Cleon, who promised to end the war"; Gaul and the Highlands of Scotland in seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; Cæsar and Pompey at Dyrrhachium and Grant and Lee in 1864. As to the economic causes which lay behind this political development, Mr. Oman has a noteworthy passage: "Any theory based on the hypothesis that rich men are gratuitously and perversely wicked has found eager acceptance in certain quarters, ever since history began. When the land is suffering from poverty and depression, it is always popular to lay the blame on the backs of tangible and obvious individuals rather than to search for obscure economic causes."

We assent to the oft-repeated axiom that the intermittent yet sure advance to Cæsarism (that is centralisation and equal rights under an impartial master) depended on two problems,—the political question of Sovereignty, and the economic difficulty. The "chaos and conflict of sovereignties" led as naturally to the popular welcome of a strong and equitable ruler as the disorder and wastefulness of the parcelled territory of the mediæval times led to absolute monarchy. Dr. Emil Reich seriously traces the crusades rather to the "unbearable ennui of the knights in their lonely and tedious castles" than to "any economic motives whatever". It is certain that the immediate social inconvenience of turbulence and uncertainty, felt personally, united with an impersonal economic tendency, went to create a stable equilibrium round an acknowledged centre. No contemporary can be a judge of the latter. The divorce of law and force caused the greatest confusion; at intervals of twenty years, Sulla, Pompey, Cæsar, return home with an army as victorious pro-

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consuls to restore a semblance of order. For without a central authority, lord paramount over all and invested with an almost divine sanction, the technical separation of the civil and military (completed 300 years after) is a fictitious and unavailing remedy, in spite of Mr. Oman's recommendation of this later plan of Diocletian. Clearly the immediate needs of order and commerce and the obscurer stimulus of an economic change, operating deeply, will account for the strange emphasis on individual characters, forced by irresistible influence from without to reconstruct the Roman constitution. We have mere visionaries, the dangerous yet virtuous reformers like the Gracchi; the colder and more practical politicians like Crassus and Pompey, yet essentially men "without a programme or an ideal", the intransigeant archaist who resents all change, in the intransigeant archaist who resents all change, in Cato; and finally the two positive statesmen, Sulla and Cæsar, who both left behind a deliberate edifice of reconstruction, though in each case destined to pass away. We decline to assent to Mr. Oman's judgment on the most brilliant figure of the late Republic. "Cæsar the altruist is a fiction of the nineteenth century"; "once more fortune comes to the aid of the great adventurer"; "we refuse our moral sympathy to the affable, versatile, unscrupplous man of the great adventurer"; "we refuse our moral sympathy to the affable, versatile, unscrupulous man of genius, who made an end of the old order". A reaction, at least in Oxford, was perhaps due (a sort of academic tide) against the pragmatic dogmatism of Mommsen, to whom Cæsar is the "perfect man"! But this is gaing ridial leasts for Augustus' elements was this is going ridiculously far. Augustus' clemency was not "jaded cruelty" as the acrid Suetonius thought; nor was his uncle's liberalism and generosity merely the effect of a cold-hearted policy of self-interest and ambition. Moralists will always quarrel on the ultimate spring of action; obedience to a law (of the common advantage) or satisfaction of an inward impulse: in effect, the two cannot be readily torn apart or dissected separately. We prefer to believe that in the end Cæsar sacrificed himself to the needs of Rome and to a sense of unselfish duty; throwing off more and more in a patient and ungrateful task the mere egoism of a Greek tyrant or leader of mercenaries. He had lived enough and was ready for death; and a career begun in vanity and was ready for death; and a career begun in vanity and extravagance finishes with a hero's martyrdom. He had proved that concentration, equal justice, and security of life and property were not mere names; only the irreconcilable aristocrat could object "cum domino pax ista venit". Though his particular form of administration disappeared, the Roman world was not satisfied until a craftier and less explicit system of autocracy had taken its place. With the general criticism on the figure and character of Julius in the volume we can no more agree than with the following generalisation of the later Empire: "In neither of them" (revival of ceremonial worship and cult of the Emperor) "was there the least breath of reality"; "the individual citizen was debarred from politics and "the individual citizen was debarred from politics and invited to entrust all his cares to the divine autocrat": the Roman Empire "whether as a despotism or as a bureaucracy was a magnificent failure". The ideal which has guided the whole political development of Europe, never more potent than to-day, cannot be thus dismissed with a summary verdict; nor can the great part played by the first Cæsar be understood or explained by reference merely to the selfish impulses of an adventurer.

AN AGNOSTIC ON LIFE.

"Life in Mind and Conduct." By Henry Maudsley. London: Macmillan. 1902. 10s. 6d. net.

DR. MAUDSLEY as a writer on the physiology and pathology of the brain has had very considerable popularity considering the nature of his subjects; and has had undoubted influence on the thought of his time. The term psychology, as employed by him, has to be divested of the meaning inherited from the metaphysicians who lived before the study of brain functions was looked upon as the key to the operations of mind—whatever that "very fiery particle" as Byron called it may be. But he is not to be placed amongst the more modern school of psychologists who work in labora-

tories as elaborately fitted up with machinery as if they were electrical engineers. He occupies a middle place in the history of the undoubted change which occurred, in consequence of the increased attention paid to the study of organic processes, during the last century. His study of mind was determined by his observations of pathological conditions in the brain which it was his business as a specialist in insanity to investigate. Mental disorders, so called, resolved themselves with him into organic or functional disorders of the brain. The healthy brain and other organic processes were all that we could know of mind; if there were a mind entity it was hidden from us, and appeared wholly involved in the physical processes which were all that we could know. For all practical purposes therefore the independent mind, the soul, everything that the metaphysicians, who were the constant subject of his railings and railleries, founded on disappeared as a subject of investigation separate from the study of the ordinary vital functions in health and disease. Free will and necessity, conscience, responsibility, duty, vice and virtue, pleasure and pain, the individual and social life of man, the prospect of survival after the death of the physical life, in short all ethical and religious doctrines are evidently different at Dr. Maudsley's point of view from what they are to the man who starts from the supposition of the indivisible unity and separate existence of the individual human soul. We do not mean by this that Dr. Maudsley teaches anything as to practical conduct in life which would be considered immoral. Far from it. One might almost imagine, indeed, that the present book had been written, not so much because the author had anything important of a scientific nature to expound as because he wished to display cynically the inconsistencies between ethical and religious ideals, as commonly held, and the perversions they undergo in their application to the ordinary conduct of life.

Thus we have displayed, rather in the spirit of the satirist than in that of the man of science, the social hypocrisies and falsehoods which exist side by side with a formal standard of truth, with the competition for supremacy, and the cruelty which are in opposition to the ideals of human brotherhood, and the spirit of Christianity. A favourite example is the glorification of the warrior and of the pushing strong man who uses means and attains ends which are applauded because they conserve society, though he rides roughshod over moral and Christian principles. Where, in his present book, Dr. Maudsley is not taking his diversion in his old well-known manner with the metaphysicians, he is insisting mostly on such topics as these; and as they are by no means new we do not find this book nearly so much worth reading as most of his other books. In those, even where his dogmatism was greater than knowledge of his extremely difficult subject-matter warranted, one could never be indifferent to the new light which his methods threw on old questions: and certainly in many respects they appeared to be more fruitful and more practically valuable. There is nothing very special in this book: not much, if anything, which a clever cynical man of the world might not have said: and it is said with a great deal of diffusiveness and a style which is more laboured and less incisive than that of his earlier works. Dr. Maudsley however does not merely jeer at the inconsistencies he displays. There is running through the book a certain synthesis or reconciliation which is the philosophic resolution he offers of the acknowledged division between the ideals and the practice of life. The Christian philosopher reconciles the division by well-known theological theories relating to the spiritual nature of man and his predestined immortality in a future life: in various ways the new life is to resolve the inconsistencies of old.

Dr. Maudsley, excluding that solution, sees in the continual fight between those opposites nature's means of preserving the organisms of man and society. In the course of development towards an unknown end—and in the true tone of agnosticism he adds, there may be no end,—the social and moral ideals have been added to the original animal nature out of which man has arisen. If either of these have unrestricted play society will dissolve for opposite reasons. Hence society's only preservation

is to be found in a compromise with the two distinct ideals of egoism and altruism; a blend which has such ludicrous results when considered from the point of view of the loftier ideal which society always formally maintains as its real goal. Philosophically considered, no abstract moral distinction can be made between virtue and vice, lying and truth, hypocrisy and sincerity, selfishness and unselfishness. Each must be considered on its merits according to time and place and the object that is to be attained—the building up and preservation of society. The society tolerates, encourages, or discourages one or the other society from this point of view. The truthful man whom society will encourage is the man who lies no more than is necessary for its interests: a distinction will be made between murder which protects society and murder which alarms it for its safety; and so on. Morality is always relative to the stage at which the society happens to be; the civic virtues are like those of the individual, as defined long ago from the unscientific standpoint, a mean between what we call in the abstract virtue and vice. In short paganism is writ large over the whole book; we are within the circle of its virtues and vices and cannot get out on the assumption of the writer's

There has to be added for the sake of demonstrating the complete hopelessness of our position a sketch of man's possible future. Dr. Maudsley does not allow himself or his readers to contemplate any divine end to which the whole creation, man included, moves. Hence it is a pretty speculation what is to be the ultimate nature of man when, in the progress of his development as a moral creature, he has eliminated as he may do, since he has been steadily doing it in the past, his ruder animal nature which has hitherto been necessary, as it will continue long to be, for his preservation in society. The conflict ceasing between his reason and his emotions, the ideal with what we now call the practical being no longer at variance, will he become instinctively moral, as are ants and bees, and lose his attractiveness as a human being simply because the conflict between good and evil will have come to an end? This also is no new suggestion. Dr. Maudsley only raises difficulties as old as the hills, and science has no resources to answer them; and it raises other difficulties which it is as helpless to resolve. The book rather stifles one. It is a cynically written commentary on the text that man is "most ignorant of what he's most assured—his glassy essence". The text is sufficient for the mature man of experience without the commentary; for the more youthful the poetry of the text is not depressing; the prose of the commentary would undoubtedly

NOVELS.

"The Reflections of Ambrosine." By Elinor Glyn. London: Duckworth. 1902. 6s.

There is always some danger in making a hit, in any walk of life, literature, politics, the bar, art. Expectations are thereby raised which the author, speaker, or artist finds it impossible to satisfy. "The Visits of Elizabeth" was a palpable hit, and had we not read that charming satire on modern society, we should have passed "The Reflections of Ambrosine" as a well-written, if slightly constructed, novel, without plot or incident, but containing some clever character sketches. But having tasted of the delights of Elizabeth, we cannot help being di-appointed with Ambrosine. There was a distinction about "The Visits of Elizabeth", a sureness of touch, a delicacy of humour, which make it quite unnecessary, and indeed a little undignified, on the part of Mrs. Glyn to tell us in the preface that she did not write the Letters of Elizabeth's mother and grandmother. No one with any idea of style ever supposed that Mrs. Elinor Glyn did write those vulgar parodies. But we doubt whether anyone would have given "The Reflections of Ambrosine" to Mrs. Glyn, had it not been for the title-page. The distinction, the humour, the sureness of touch, the delicate wit, of "The Visits" are missing in "The Reflections". We do not quarrel with Mrs. Glyn for not making "The Reflections"

amusing: they are intended to be pathetic, and, to a limited degree, they are so. But we do not think that pathos is Mrs. Glyn's forte; and drunkenness is a morbid and repulsive subject, which so bright a writer had much better leave to dismal realists of the school of Mrs. W. K. Clifford. Then there are one or two social "gaffs", in which we are surprised to catch Mrs. Glyn. Ambrosine is engaged to a vulgar, drunken, cad, called Gurrage, and going to a country ball as his fiancée dances with Sir Antony Thornhirst, to whom she is introduced in such a way that neither hears the other's name. Sir Antony innocently alludes to Gurrage as a "bear", and Ambrosine replies that she is engaged to him. "Oh, you poor little white Comtesse", he said. We really doubt whether any gentleman—and Sir Antony is supposed to be very grand seigneur—would so address a lady, whom he had never seen before, on being told of her engagement to someone whom he had just been abusing. Gurrage is a tipsy beast certainly: but Ambrosine is so disagreeable and apathetic and superior, that we actually sympathise with the wretch when he explains his friendship with Lady Grenellen by saying, "A man of the world must have a little amusement with such a dull stuck-up wife at home as I have got". Sir Antony invites Mr. and Mrs. Gurrage to stay with him. Ambrosine motors over, but the husband is kept in town by a fog. The next day Ambrosine and Antony start for London, and driving to the station he tells his love. Then: "We did not travel in the same carriage going to London: we had agreed it would be better not" Why better not? What could be more absurd? The way in which Gurrage is hurried off to a yeoman's grave in South Africa is certainly not original. Then "Papa", whom Ambrosine has only seen twice in seven years, or even made them wist him in America. Of course Ambrosine hands back the handsome jointure settled by Gurrage to Amelia Hoad, a poor relation, and with Papa's "colossal fortune" marries Sir Antony. These things are not artistic; they a

"Tales about Temperaments." By John Oliver Hobbes. London: Unwin. 1902. 2s. 6d. net.

The title chosen by Mrs. Craigie for her bundle of three stories and two plays might stand for almost any form of literature except Bradshaw, but her preface, with its naïve assumption that a critic who fails to praise must necessarily misunderstand, is itself a very instructive tale of an interesting temperament. Mrs Craigie is righteously annoyed with Anglo-Saxon critics who did not care for her striking little play dealing with the Carlist war of 1835, but her prefatory argument that recent events should help us to understand the Carlist war of 1869 is possibly irrelevant. The other play would do very well for private theatricals; the fairy story appeared in our own columns some years ago, but of the two tales one seems a trifle futile and the other slightly repulsive. The writing is at times brilliant, and so many people take no trouble at all over excellent subjects that we ought not to blame an author for devoting care to polishing material hardly worth the process.

"The New Parisians." By W. F. Lonergan. London: Sands. 1902. 6s.

This book reads like a dull and disconnected guide to Paris with an emphatic bias towards the gloomy and horrible. We have long descriptions of the Morgue, dissecting-room odours, catacombs, devilworshippers, and every gloomy or horrible sight that the author could contrive to unearth. A weak, colourless love-story is dragged in at intervals but fails to revive the dry bones of description. Here is a characteristic passage: "Langton, thoroughly revived after the overnight orgy, did not feel disposed to do any further exploration of the Latin country, and

indulged at his hotel in a few hours of desultory read-Then he had an hour at French composition, in order to prepare himself for the essay which he had to write in that difficult language for the Sorbonne examiners."

"Love Grown Cold." By Annie S. Swan. London:
Methuen. 1902. 5s.
Miss Annie Swan is again to be congratulated on having given us a very readable novel. That she is at having given us a very readable novel. That she is at her best when describing Scotch folk and Scotch scenes goes without saying. She is nearly always interesting and if she has not succeeded in writing a very notable book, she has at all events given us some charming character

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"A Short History of the British in India." By A. D. Innes.

"A Short History of the British in India." By A. D. Innes. London: Methuen. 1902. 7s. 6d.

It would be too much to say that Mr. Innes' book fills an absolute void, though he may fairly claim that it supplies a distinct want. The ground he traverses has already been covered by various writers. Fresh research is not within the scope of his project: his information is drawn from sources readily accessible to all readers. Nevertheless his book is a welcome and valuable addition to the existing histories of India. It embodies in a concise volume the whole story of the most important, as it is to English readers the most interesting enoch important, as it is to English readers the most interesting, epoch in the annals of India. To those chapters which describe the rise and consolidation of the British power he properly prefixes in a few pregnant pages a brief sketch of the native rule which it replaced. Without this the control of the property of the in a few pregnant pages a brief sketch of the native rule which it replaced. Without this the central story would be scarcely intelligible. The narrative though compressed is everywhere clear and connected, the true relation and proportion of incidents and phases of the history is well preserved, the style is admirably lucid and the judgment of men and actions is uniformly temperate and well balanced. No doubt there are points open to criticism. Exception, for instance might in some cases be taken to the space assigned or denied to various scenes and subjects or to the omission of names which every history should record. A fresh modification of the Hunterian system of spelling Indian words was neither desirable nor required. The discussion of the causes which led to the Mutiny curiously omits the important factor of the loss desirable nor required. The discussion of the causes which led to the Mutiny curiously omits the important factor of the loss of prestige which the Oudh sepoys suffered from the annexation and it assigns perhaps excessive weight to the greased cartridge incident. There are little slips and errors in matters of geography and spelling or in the lesser details of the administrative systems and the views and attitude of native communities. They do not affect the accuracy of the main narrative and are trivial blemishes in a work of unquestionable merit. It may be gathered that Mr. Innes has little or no direct personal experience of India. He would do well in future editions to have his pages carefully revised by some one who possesses this qualifipages carefully revised by some one who possesses this qualifi-cation. It is worth while to add all possible polish to a work which both the general reader and the student will find an eminently readable narrative as well as a trustworthy guide to the most romantic section of our national history.

The Semitic Series:—"The Early History of Syria and Palestine." By L. B. Paton. "The Theology and Ethics of the Hebrews." By Archibald Duff. London: Nimmo. 1902. 5s. net each.

1902. 5s. net each.

"The Semitic Series" is an attempt to represent in "popularly scientific form" the chief results of the discoveries, archaeological or otherwise, that have been made in the Semitic sphere of the world's history. The volumes of the series hitherto published are of unequal value, and the two latest are written from opposite points of view, the one being archæological and the other "critical". The second is the more readable, but the picture of the Hebrew people contained in it is based upon too subjective a view of the Old Testament literature, and in spite, therefore, of the tone of assurance that runs through it, cannot be regarded as representing more than the opinions of the author and that particular school to which he belongs. The names of such rash theorisers as Drs. Niebuhr and Winckler which appear on the first page do not inspire us with much confidence in the judgment of Professor Duff. Indeed, the mode in which the story of the Exodus and the settlement in Palestine is re-written reminds us of the discarded settlement in Palestine is re-written reminds us of the discarded methods of the German Rationalist school in the early part of the last century. Professor Duff knows a good deal more about what really happened than did the writers of the Pentateuch. The latter part of the volume is occupied with those neatly labelled "analyses" of the Hebrew sacred books of which we are beginning to get a little tired. "The Early History of Syria and Palestine" is of a different character. Dr Paton goes to archæology for his evidence, and the Tell el-Amarna tablets naturally play a leading part in his account of ancient Syria. The array of authorities whom he has consulted is really imposing, and his work has been done with

German completeness. It is, in fact, rather too thorough for German completeness. It is, in fact, rather too thorough for the public for whom the Semitic Series is intended, and we fear that the unfamiliar names with which its pages bristle will frighten from them the ordinary reader. Dr. Paton has taken his information at secondhand, with the result that a due proportion between details and general facts is not always observed. Nor is his judgment always to be trusted, as when, for example, he adopts Winckler's theory that the Khabiri and the "Robbers" of the Tell el-Amaria tablets are the same. But on the whole he has gone to the best and latest authorities. But on the whole he has gone to the best and latest authorities and shown a wide range of reading and extensive acquaintance with his subject. For those who wish to know what modern research and discovery have told us of ancient Syria there is no better book. It is at once "up-to-date" and packed with information.

"Among Swamps and Giants in Equatorial Africa." By Major H. H. Austin. London: Pearson. 1902. 15s. net.

Major H. H. Austin. London: Pearson. 1902. 15s. net. This "account of surveys and adventures in the Southern Sudan and British East Africa" as the author describes it, is unquestionably a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the character and races of Equatorial Africa. The volume covers two expeditions, that of 1899-1900 to the Sobat region when the hardships endured resulted in the death of all the transport animals save some fifty donkeys, and that of 1900-1901 from Omdurman to Mombasa vià Lake Rudolf. Major Austin's literary gifts are not equal to his courage and resource. transport animals save some fifty donkeys, and that of 1900–
1901 from Omdurman to Mombasa viå Lake Rudolf. Major
Austin's literary gifts are not equal to his courage and resource
as an explorer—even in a diary we expect something better
than "I am shocking thirsty as I write"—but the story he has
to tell is as absorbing as any chronicle of travel we have ever
read. He and his party ran serious risks not only of dying
miserably of thirst or starvation but from treacherous guides
and hostile natives such as the giant Turkana who inhabit the
country to the south of Lake Rudolf. To the north of the Lake,
Major Austin discovered a dirty pocket handkerchief of silky
substance with a large B embroidered in the corner. "I
pondered deeply for some time, until at last it struck me
'B for Bottego.' He and his officers were the only Europeans
who had trodden the ground we were now on and I decided
therefore to bring it with me for despatch to his relatives."
Unfortunately this relic got lost with other belongings in overcoming the obstacles ahead of Major Austin and his companions before they found themselves safe among friends.

"George Meredith." By Walter Jerrold. London: Greening

"George Meredith." By Walter Jerrold. London : Greening

"George Meredith." By Walter Jerrold. London: Greening 1902. 3s. 6d.

It was objected to a Latin verse writer that his verses had much Horace and Vergil but little either Horatian or Vergilian. It is a credit in this little volume of pleasant criticism that it has a good deal of Meredith and nothing Meredithian. On the negative side it is admirable. There is no pandering to curiosity of personal details. We are not even told that Mr. Meredith once fed on porridge and raisins and preached his own creed in "Beauchamp's Career"; and there is every reason why a writer who has no personal knowledge of the man he writes of should chronicle nothing but facts generally known and otherwise keep to criticism of books which he does know. On the whole the estimate is clear and sound and the little book would be an excellent prolegomena to the study of Meredith. "The Shaving of Shagpat" seems to us a little overrated; perhaps also some of the poems. The selections are admirably designed to give the pleasantest notion of Meredith, but are they wholly characteristic? The best thing in the book is a letter, which we have seen before, written by Meredith to an American admirer. "The one secret of life is to pave the way for the firmer footing of those who succeed us" is a maxim that illuminates much of the motive underlying the courageous experiments in language and conception that Mr. Meredith is continually atternating. For the rest the little maxim that illuminates much of the motive underlying the courageous experiments in language and conception that Mr. Meredith is continually attempting. For the rest the little biography is modest and, if not full of illumination, marked by a very thorough knowledge of the books. The short bibliography is useful.

"Reminiscences of the late Thomas Assheton Smith Esquire. A Famous Foxhunter, or the Pursuits of an English Country Gentleman." By Sir John Eardley-Wilmot. London: Everett. 6s.

Sir Herbert Maxwell has written the introduction to the Sir Herbert Maxwell has written the introduction to the sixth edition of this really admirable book. Since we last read this book with joy several of the little band of hunting men who either knew Assheton Smith himself, or were full of stories of him gleaned from his associates, have died. Tedworth itself has ceased to be the headquarters of the pack which he made famous for ever. Assheton Smith was a rare hand with the gloves as well as the reins; and he was one of the best gentlemen cricketers in England for a short while. He once declared that he should like to ride, shoot, play cricket and box against Squire Osbaldeston; but he insisted that he must be allowed to box first—in order to prevent his opponent from winning in any of the other exploits.

"Physician and Friend: Alexander Grant." Edited by George

Smith. London: Murray. 1902. 10s. 6d.

The work of the subject of this sketch in sanitary and humanitarian reforms in India is well worthy of record. The book is made up chiefly of Grant's own journal and of his

letters from the Marquis of Dalhousie. It contains some very interesting matter indeed concerning Lord Dalhousie, and several effective stories of the Duke of Wellington that are

"The Principles of Criticism." By W. Basil Worsfold. London: George Allen. 1902. 3s. 6d.

We are very pleased to find that Mr. Worsfold's sane and careful book on criticism has reached a new edition. We said of this volume, when it first appeared, that it was "full of good things and will amply repay the attention of serious readers".

"Formal Gardens in England and Scotland." Part III. By
H. Inigo Triggs. London: Batsford. 1903. £3 13s. 6d.
This is the completion of a work which has been carried out in a thorough manner. We have already referred to both the illustrations and letterpress. This third part includes Hatfield, Wilton, Haddon Hall, and Montacute House. There are several illustrations of some of the most notable dovecotes which were held to be an almost indispensable part of many which were held to be an almost indispensable part of many old English mansions and manor houses too.

"The School of the Woods." By W. J. Long. 10s. 6d.

The title of Mr. Long's latest book if it does not cover the field indicates at least one of the theories which he sets out to maintain; that the young of birds and beasts learn more from the actual lessons of their parents than they acquire by hereditary instinct. The writer has lived alone except for the company of an Indian, in the New England woods or on New England streams. The almost romantic interest of what he England streams. The almost romantic interest of what he saw or at any rate of what he describes is undoubted, if often he has a way of reading into the actions of animals motives and intentions that belong to them only by help of imaginative inference. But the book would be admirably fitted for a gift to boys who in the first stages of natural history like their animals big and the observations exciting. The whole get-up of the book, in type and illustration, is excellent and of the illustrations, two at least—the bear and man on a two-foot ledge and the fight between the blue heron and the tiger-stoat—proclaim the excite-ment of the text. The best part of the book, judged as a con-tribution to science, is the account of the lessons; and the distinctions of character shown in the aptitude and docility of brothers and sisters. We prefer "The School of the Woods" to both "Birds of the Air" and "Beasts of the Field". It has more observation and less fiction.

"The Encyclopædic Dictionary." London: Cassell and Co.

1902. 7s. 6d.

This is the supplementary volume of Messrs. Cassell's Encyclopædic Dictionary, a well-known work issued in 1888 and it is bound so as to fall uniformly into the original series. The intention is to include all the words from A to Z which have come into use since 1888: and the plan of the original work come into use since 1888: and the plan of the original work has been followed in the preparation of this volume by Mr. Henry Scherren, except that primary and compound words have been printed in strictly alphabetical order instead of compounds being arranged under the primary words. We do not quite see however why the new words are said to be those introduced since 1888, as quite evidently there are many words which were in use long before that year. Probably what is meant is that certain words omitted in the original now find a place in the Supplement. place in the Supplement.

ERRATA: Messrs. J. M. Dent and Co. inform us (1) that the price of "A Child's Book of Saints" (which is a second and cheaper edition) is 3s. 6d. net, not 6s. as we stated last week. (2) That Mr. Edmund G. Gardner's forthcoming volume on Siena is not a "Temple" primer, but will belong to the "Larger Mediæval Town Series". On page v of the supplement last week, line 34, Favre is a misprint for Fabre.

FRENCH LITERATURE.

La Statue Ensevelie. Par Ivan Strannik. Paris: Calmann

La Statue Ensevelie. Par Ivan Strannik. Paris: Calmann Lévy. 1902. 3f. 50c.

As a translator of Gorky's grim stories we have a great respect for M. Ivan Strannik; but as a novelist we find him somewhat morbid and dull. The heroine of his book is a sculptor, the wife of a Russian doctor, who is ambitious and worldly and selfish and altogether indifferent to his wife's work. Why she is haunted always by her most recent statue, that of a blind woman, we do not quite understand; but she is, and is made miserable and morbid by it, and in the end buries it. That, however, is in the last chapter of the book, when she has resolved to quit her unsympathetic husband and share the home of a young cousin. This cousin is one of the students who have rebelled against the University authorities; and we expected to get a description of the recent student brawls, but are disappointed. A short passage briefly and curtly dismisses the brawl. The cousin ought to have been wounded or arrested—that would almost justify his existence. As it is, he talks sadly and sighs, but his talk is vague, and we get tired of his sighs. Why the heroine likes him, or rather loves him, we cannot explain. She is a strange, a morbid, a mysterious young woman, and we cannot

think that she was much of a sculptor. The description of a brilliant ball is not brilliant. An old nurse, the heroine's, is rather a nuisance. The heroine has a short illness. That

Longue Route. Par François Gillette. Paris: Plon. 1902,

3f. 5oc.

So deep is the love of Consuelo Galdos for Biron, a famous doctor, that she plots to meet him and waits about for him and tells him of her passion and sends him notes appointing a place of rendezvous and even visits him in his flat. Biron is a gentleman, treats Consuelo considerately and courteously—but for her own sake implores her to forget him. But Consuelo persists: and no doubt everyone will denounce her as a minx and call her a bold, an indelicate Consuelo. Nothing of the kind! Consuelo is one of the most sympathetic and charming heroines we have ever met. Biron is to blame—to blame herouse he does not return Consuelo's passion; and we do kind! Consuelo is one of the most sympathetic and charming heroines we have ever met. Biron is to blame—to blame because he does not return Consuelo's passion; and we do not doubt for a moment that his life would have been brighter and that he himself would have become a finer and a still more famous doctor if he had had Consuelo always at his side. Three parts of M. François Gillette's admirable novel deals exclusively with this one-sided love affair; the fourth part deals with Consuelo's adventures abroad, whither she goes to claim an estate, and from first to last we are wholly in sympathy with this solitary, romantic, unworldly cirl. Old she goes to claim an estate, and from first to last we are wholly in sympathy with this solitary, romantic, unworldly girl. Old Galdos has been a rake, and when his wife dies he expects his daughter to nurse him. No gaiety for Consuelo, and little affection; only a gloomy house, poverty, and a selfish suffering father. She has met no one, and so looks upon Biron as a hero. True, he is good and clever and, better still, a gentleman; but we cannot detect in him any note of heroism. That he respects Consuelo is only an instance of chivalry; but a man would have to be a brute indeed to take advantage of Consuelo. A pathetic little figure is she when she escapes from her gloomy home and goes in quest of Biron; her walks and conversations with the doctor are recorded by M. Gillette in the simplest and most delicate fashion, and her utter loneliness and helolessness most delicate fashion, and her utter loneliness and helplessness are ever there to awaken in us sympathy and compassion. This, indeed, is fine work: the tragedy is not overdone, the grief at no time becomes maudlin, the separation is natural because it is inevitable.

Un Mariage Chic. Par Gyp. Paris: Flammarion.

3f. 50c.

A series of vulgar and utterly offensive dialogues which a less offensive writer than Gyp would have been thoroughly ashamed of having written. Her wit and "smartness" have gone, and in their place we get pages of abuse. Also, we get "padding", and any amount of the lowest argot, and constant vulgar repetitions from earlier books. Thus, at short intervals, Gyp has written "Jacquette et Zouzou", "Israël", "Les Cayennes de Rio", "Le Friquet"—all of which are vulgar and offensive denunciations of the Jews. In the present volume we again meet the Cayennes de Rio, a Jewish family, who wish through marriage to become related to the Duc and Duchesse de Vyéladage. The last, who are poor, dislike the idea of their son marrying a cayennes de Rio, a jewish family, who wish through marriage to become related to the Duc and Duchesse de Vyéladage. The last, who are poor, dislike the idea of their son marrying a Cayenne de Rio, but conceal their dislike and consent to the marriage because young Cayenne de Rio is rich. It never strikes Gyp that the de Vyéladages in their love of money are vulgar themselves; if that does strike her she is not honest enough to admit it. Indeed, the de Vyéladages are a wretched couple, their son is a wretched creature, whereas the Cayennes de Rio are too grotesquely and infamously caricatured to be wretched. Here is the description of the head of the de Rios:—"Ignoble. Le youpin laineux et graisseux dans toute son horreur"; and that of the daughters of de Rio, "Quatre paquets gras, gélatineux, jaunes et laineux". Gyp is fond of the word "ignoble"—but it is the correctest epithet to apply to her own writings. Cayenne de Rio is made to speak wholly unintelligibly, and his daughters—girls of fifteen and upwards—cannot open their mouths without committing a fault or a vulgarism. The odious word "youpin" appears almost on every page, with other odious argot. In short, a book to be burnt.

Comme les Autres. Par "Brada". Paris: Calmann Lévy.

appears almost on every page, with other outous argon in short, a book to be burnt.

Comme les Autres. Par "Brada". Paris: Calmann Lévy. 1902. 3f. 50c.

It is possible to be mildly entertained by "Brada's" last novel. In idle moments we might do much worse than follow the romance between Charlotte de Ruvigny and Raymond de la Leyne, who "deceive" in genteel fashion the money-making Maurice de Ruvigny. Both Charlotte and Raymond are refined, and they would have run away from Maurice de Ruvigny and been married after the divorce, if the husband had not lost his money. At this point Charlotte realises that it is her duty to console her husband: says good-bye for ever to her lover. That is "Brada's" great incident, great climax; it has done infinite service, but it will do. We have to admire Charlotte and sympathise with Maurice, who has been gay; and we have also to pity Raymond de la Leyne, the distracted lover. The husband's secret is disclosed in a conventional manner. In the midst of a grand ball given in his grand mansion Charlotte hears accidentally that Maurice is ruined. "Is it true?" she asks. "It is true", he replies. "Take my own fortune", she commands. Protests, refusals; when

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Maurice de Ruvigny takes Charlotte's fortune he finds that it is not enough. A great financier, Campredon, offers to keep Maurice if Charlotte will smile upon him. Of course, Charlotte refuses to smile upon Campredon, and of course Campredon refuses to help Maurice. Of such conventional stuff is "Brada's" novel composed; we must not forget to mention a mother-in-law, Maurice's actress-friend, other lovers who carry on little intrigues on yachts and by the sea. No style to speak of; but now and then, humour. In a sense, moral: for, on the last page, when Maurice de Ruvigny says "Good-bye", does not his wife reply, "Non, au revoir. J'attendrai votre retour avec notre fils"? Then: "Et dans ces paroles, son âme trouva soudain l'apaisement." By which we may infer that Charlotte and Maurice de Ruvigny and young de Ruvigny will know peaceful happy days. peaceful happy days.

Les Oberlé. Par René Bazin. Grande édition de luxe. Paris :
Calmann Lévy. 1902. 15f.

M. René Bazin has a fine reputation in the London suburbs and among those people who are easily to be shocked. To the high school girl his books are presented as prizes ; mothers who wish their children to improve their knowledge of French choose for them the works of M. René Bazin, and a favourite

(Continued on page 746.)

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critic has magnificently announced that the novels of M. René Bazin may be introduced with profit into every home. Consequently, this very handsome edition of "Les Oberlé" should be welcome, find innumerable purchasers, be placed in a prominent position in the schoolroom and library. For our part, "Les Oberlé", in its new binding, will remain uncut. The oldest Oberlé, a superannuated gentleman who is for ever scribbling patriotic messages on a slate, hores us. We are almost unkind enough to wish that superannuation had even robbed him of the power of holding his slate. The patriotism, indeed, is maudlin from first to last. However, we have noticed the book before and need not therefore protest again. Let us merely say that the present volume is beautifully printed on beautiful paper, and that the illustrations are excellent; and that all admirers of M. René Bazin's work should introduce a copy of this édition de luxe into their home. this édition de luxe into their home.

this édition de luxe into their home.

Jouets du Destin. Par D. Longard de Longgarde. Paris and London: Hachette. 1902. 5f.

L'Oiseleur. Par Béatrice Harraden. Paris and London: Hachette. 1902. 5f.

Les Petits Poussargues. Par F. Deschamps. Paris and London: Hachette. 1902. 3f. 5oc.

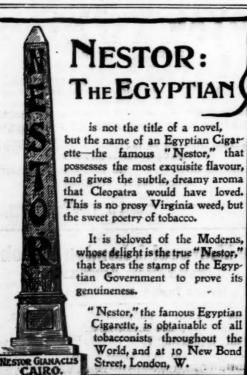
Gift-books, handsomely bound, for children or for all those who like mildly to be entertained. Illustrations, but mostly mediocre. Of the three books, "L'Oiseleur", a translation of Miss Beatrice Harraden's "The Fowler", is the most notable, and we have to congratulate that gifted author on having found so capable a translator. Miss Beatrice Harraden is well known in France, where "Ships that Pass in the Night" met with an eminently satisfactory reception. "L'Oiseleur" in its present form should also be popular. Both M. Longard de Longgarde and M. F. Deschamps understand full well what is expected from them at Christmas-time, and both have produced stories that should find much favour among young people. people.

Revue des Deux Mondes. 1 décembre. 3f.

Revue des Deux Mondes. I décembre. 3f.

The second instalment of M. Augustin Thierry's "Complot des Libelles" demonstrates the failure of the conspiracy against Napoleon in 1802. If this plot had succeeded he points out that the result would still have been a military despotism, and one far more under purely military influences than was that of the "Corsican". Better Napoleon than Moreau and Bernadotte! There is a most interesting study of the working woman in the United States by Madame Van Worst who has herself shared the lot of the workers. The result of the picture she draws is not pleasing. The American "ouvrière" as she depicts her is vain, cold, vulgar in soul and self-seeking to the last degree. One striking fact she brings out, viz. that the family is a burden that the working woman no more than the woman of leisure will put up with in the United States. Were it not for the continuous flood of immigrants this might be a serious matter. serious matter.

For This Week's Books see page 748.



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(Continued on page 688.)

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TAQUAH AND ABOSSO GOLD MINING COMPANY.

THE second ordinary general meeting of the Taquah and Abosso Gold Mining Company (1900), was held yesterday at Cannon Street Hotel, Sir Charles Buan Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I. presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. J. Foster) read the notice calling the meeting. The Chairman, after going through the balance-sheet and referring to the delay with regard to the titles of the properties the Company took over said 3-1 think we may fairly claim that everything has been done to afterguard the future that was in the company of the company took over said 3-1 think we may fairly claim that everything has been done to afterguard the future that was properties to the former companies show that 2 road ozs. of gold valued at over \$\frac{6}{2}\trac{1}{

ROBINSON GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

From the Directors' Monthly Report for October, 1902.

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

			*	332 to	Mis.			Co	st r	er ton
migation colors me	EAP	END	ITUR	E.						led.
					£	S.	d.	_£	8.	d.
Mining Account (including Mai	ntena	noe)			7,941	5	3	0	II	0,085
Milling Account (including Mai	ntena	nce)	**	**	2,304	10	4	0	3	2'591
Vanning Account (including Ma Dyaniding and Chlorination	unter.	ounts	Cont	nding	179	6	0	0	0	3,000
Maintenance)	2400	ounts	*			-	-	-	-	-1
General Maintenance Account				**	2,157	9	7	0	3	0'129
National Characters	**				1,261	18	5	0	0	0'384
Gold Realisation Account	**	**	**	**			X	0	X	9,131
Join Realisation 2x000mt		**	**	**	540	0	0	0	0	9'043
16.77(31)					14.406	**	7	1	0	1'25
Development					1,057		7	0	2	8.787
Machinery, Plant and Building		100			223	6	6	0	0	3 749
,,,					3		_	_	_	374
					16,588	o	8	1	3	1'770
Profit on Working	**		**		20,604		8	2	1	3 75
						_	-	-	_	-
					546,192	13	4	63	4	5'530
	RI	EVEN	UE.				_	Val	ue j	per ton
Gold Accounts—		400	1 9		Z.	43	d.		S.	d.
From Mill		- 15	4.0		26,554	I	0		37	0'668
Tailings		**	**	**	14,408		9	X		1,581
Own Concentrates		**	**	- 00	4,979					11,304
H can community			**		419/9	-9			-	** 39
					45,942	13	4	3	4	1'344
Sundry Revenue— Rents, estimate of Interest of	120	33170	BAN.							
Profits on Purchased Conce	on Ca	20, 011	hund	and						
		2000	100 %	15	350	-0	0	0	0	4'186
AUTHORITIES DE L'ANTINO	70.2									

The value of the Gold produced is shown at £4'247727 per oz. Fine Gold, and e cost of realisation appears under the heading of "Expenditure.

No provision has been made in the above Account for the payment of the 10 per No provision has cent. Gold Tax.

BONANZA, LIMITED.

From	the	Manager's	Report	for	Octobe	r, 1902.
otal Vield	in fine	gold from all sour	ces	illed	** ***	7,267'065 ozs.

WORKING EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

	(On a b	nasis o	f 8,062	Tons	Mille	ed.	-				
					-		Co	st.		Cos	t pe	r Ton.
							£	s.	d.	£	8.	d.
To	Mining				**	9.0	5,204	2	7	0	13	10'923
	Crushing and Sorting						1,149	I	10	. 0	2	10,309
	Milling					0.0	1,532		IO	0	3	9.010
	Cyaniding Sands				**		1,192		10	0	2	9'413
	,, Slimes					**	471	6	8	0	E	3,033
	Sundry Head Office E	xpens	es .		**	4.0	231	7	3	0	0	6.280
							9,700	70	7.7	7	4	0'781
	Development Redemp	tion	**	**			.806				2	
							10,506	16	XX	1	6	0'781
	Profit		**		**		20,003			2	9	
						£	30,510	11	10	63	15	8.348
							Va	lue	. ,	Value	e pe	r Ton.
Bv	GOLD ACCOUNT:						£		d.			d.
	Mill Gold											0'078
	Cyanide Gold	**	**	**	**	**	11,505					
									_	-		60000
	Interest Account						30,050	1	8	3	14	
	and the second					3.0	400	_	_	-	_	- /04
							£30,510	1	I IO	£3	15	8*278

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure under this head for the month amount

RAND MINES, Limited.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following 5 per Cent. Debentures were this day drawn for payment at £103 per Cent. on or after January 1, 1903, from which day interest thereon will cease:

Debentures	of	£50

			Debe	nture	S OT	£50.			
4689	4704	4715	4732	4735	4742	4743	4747	4755	4769
4770	4772	4773	4779	4785	4786	4792	4794	4807	4839
4873	4877	4882	4887	4888	4891	4897	4904	4916	4947
4956	4961	4966	4970	4979	4995	5009	503I	5036	5038
5079	5080	5082	5092	5103	5104	SILI	5116	5120	5131
5141	5148	5154	5170	5172	3177	5183	5184	5188	5198
5203	5204	5206	5209	5234	5238	5239	5246	5258	5962
5277	5297	5307	5328	5343	5353	5357	5363	537x	5383
5397	5475	5432	5444	5447	5450	5453	5460	5470	5474
5478	5501	5514	5515	5518	5525	5597	5532	5548	5554
5556	5560	556x	5562	5568	5576	5592	5593	5600	5608
5613	5615	5616	5617	5643	5661	5671	5676	5704	5705
5713	5722	5727	5728	5731	5734	5746	5765	5766	5785
5786	5806	5810	58xx	5813	5815	582x	5825	5828	5834
584I	5856	5880	5904	5909	5913	5986	5927	5935	5950
5955	5963	5967	5969	5976	5977	5993	GOOT .	6012	60x6
6031	6025	6030	6042	605 t	6068	6094	6098	6107	6120
6127	6130	6133	6195	6212	6218	6223	6229	6251	6253
6254	6263		_						
		1	Deben	ture	s of	£100.			
1149	1158	1160	1166	1201	1205	1217	1225	1230	1273
1274	1283	1303	1305	1320	1334	1355	1373	1382	1404
1412	1439	1447	1458	1466	1467	1472	1484	1495	X497
1510	1513	1538	1546	1583	1615	1658	1664	1669	1717
1726	1728	1739	1744	x763	3764	1783	1797	z804	1846

1873 1948 8037 2230 2293 2446 2516 2616 2702 2863 3091 3219 3286 3371 3384 4368 4369 4366 4366 4468 4533 19072 2118 2246 2344 2483 2483 2641 2762 2892 33140 3230 3293 3470 3753 33602 3753 33602 3753 33602 4394 4394 4394 4394 4482 4482 4482 4482 1973 2129 2362 2394 2494 2563 30544 2770 2900 3033 3171 3249 3397 3493 3613 3759 3832 4982 4982 4492 1914 2132 2278 2413 2505 2648 2819 2907 3055 3186 3258 3359 3497 3617 3838 3939 4105 4445 4448 4513 4628 1925 1985 2135 2137 22414 2501 2576 2661 2842 23067 3067 3190 3266 3364 33846 34132 4249 4344 44426 44617 1937 1997 2150 2286 2416 2508 2585 2674 2857 2953 3076 3201 3366 3847 3417 4256 4361 4429 4429 1955 2071 2235 2315 2464 2540 2609 2727 2869 3727 3398 3418 3561 3733 3733 3831 3935 4209 4278 4390 4278 4390 4480 4567 1966 2097 2238 2339 2474 2544 2639 2737 3096 3117 3233 3391 3433 3577 3735 3822 3915 4218 4218

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16	27	60	75	79	83	86 '	104	237	130
130	133	141	157	190	203	914	226	242	255
262	291	295	321	397	.333	343	363	364	398
418	421	424	434	438	473	478	529	537	539
553	563	569	592	610	628	690	639	652	657
659	66x	674	684	686	696	700	701	713	734
	782	798	799	815	828	899.	843	846	855
771 865	884	903	922	925	962	974	1004	2006	IOII
TOAT	7044	7045	robo	2062	rollo	7100	****		

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82 802 88	Debe	ntures	of £50 £100 £500	each,	£9,100 30,200 44,000	Premium	£9,3 31,1 45,3	06
E 70					200 000		oor n	-

572 £83 300 £85,799

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